

ARARAT.

A SEARCHLIGHT ON ARMENIA.

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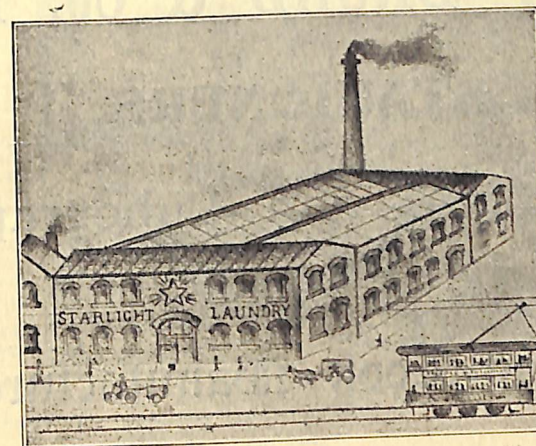
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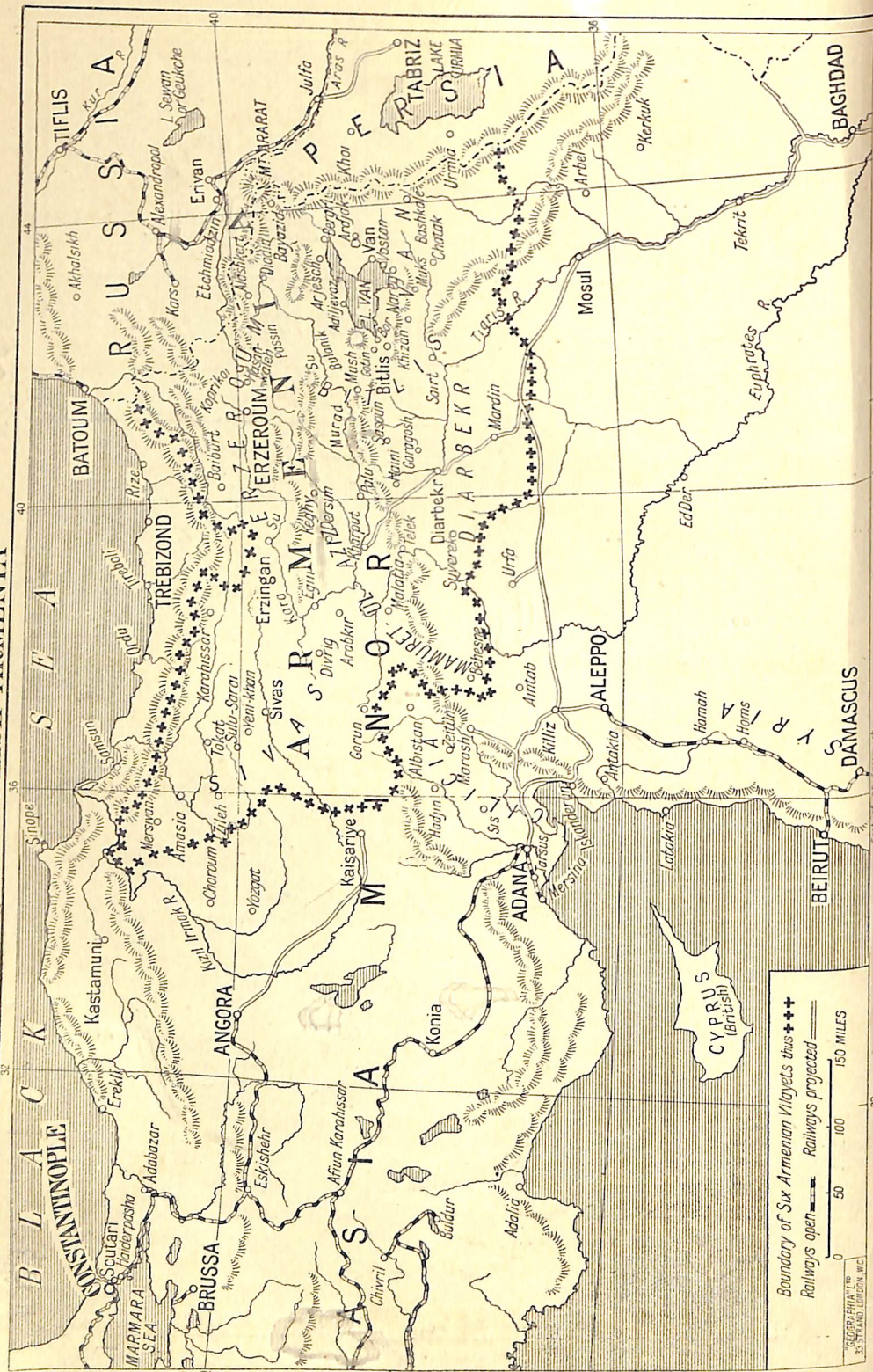
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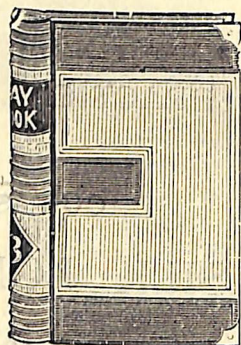
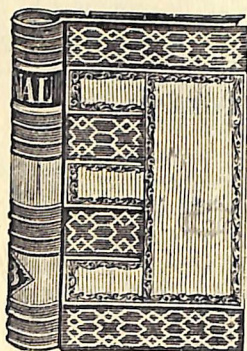
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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
1. Current Notes	43
2. Russia and Armenia. <i>The Orange Book</i> .—VI ...	47
3. The Situation in Armenia, by A. S. SAFRASTIAN	51
4. Etchmiadzin Honours the Armenian Forces ...	56
5. Ceremonial of taking the Oath by an Armenian Volunteer Regiment ...	59-60
6. The Pleading of Armenia's Cause	62
7. Turkish Methods—Armenia without Armenians	67
8. Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund	71
9. The Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, by EMILY J. ROBINSON	73
10. Parliament and Press on Armenia	75
11. Announcements	83

Literary Section.

12. A Historical Sketch of Russia's Relations with Armenia, by G. THOUMAIAN	83
13. Reviews and Notices	89
14. Advertisements	i-viii

Current Notes.

The war has entered on its second year, and the nations engaged in it are conscious that no half measures in peace proposals can be of any avail. By prodigious efforts, which must mark the climax of their power, the Central Empires have driven the great Russian armies eastward; and by the capture of Warsaw, and the fortresses including Brest Litowsk, have occupied practically the whole of Russian Poland. This by no means signifies defeat of our Eastern Ally, whose armies retreated in orderly manner and on pre-arranged plans, destroying in their retreat all that could be of any value to the enemy. With the approach of the winter months, and with proper equipment in munitions of war, we do not despair of seeing a decided change in the situation on this front, when the Austro-German army will wish they had never penetrated so far. On the other hand, the Russians have inflicted a defeat on the German fleet in the Gulf of Riga and sunk several of their minor war vessels, thus putting a check on their attempt to effect a landing in the north, while the great battle cruiser *Moltke* is reported to have been sunk in the Baltic by a British submarine. On the Western front there has been nothing of importance to report, except the persistent nibbling of General Joffre, the effective air raids of the Allies and the renewed bombardment of Zeebrugge. The Dardanelles campaign is proving a difficult venture as was anticipated, but here we must have patience. In this connection the attitude of the Balkan States is causing some anxiety, but we doubt not that, with the advent of Venizelos to power in Greece, and with Serbia giving heed to the moderating voice of the Allies, a more reasonable attitude will be adopted towards Bulgaria, to enable these States to see with one eye to their future security and peace.

We have known of the German Professor Lepsius of old, and he was reckoned as a friend by Armenians, though the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople looked upon him as an agitator (see *Orange Book*). It was therefore with some feelings of satisfaction, the clutching at a straw, that we had heard of his visit to the Turkish capital, hoping that there was one German left who would bring his influence to bear on his countrymen in Turkey to resist the diabolical attempts of the Turks to exterminate Armenians. We see in *Le Temps* of August 26th a telegram, of the 24th, from Athens on the mission of Lepsius, which the Paris paper heads, "A German protests against the carryings-on of the Young Turk." For our part we fail to see that any protest of

Lepsius is conveyed in the lines of the telegram. If anything, it is intended to palliate German complicity by implying that it is simply an old Turkish plot in process of being carried through to completion, and is beyond the power of Germany to arrest. We do not wish to be severe on our friend, the German Professor, who perhaps does not dare say all he really thinks, but we will await the results of his inquiry which he has promised, and will here give the Athens information from the columns of *Le Temps* for our readers to judge for themselves :—

“According to information received from Constantinople through excellent private sources, the German Professor Clapsius (? Lepsius), who had come to Turkey for the purpose of enquiring into the violences of which the Greek and Armenian populations of the Empire are the victims, is said to have declared that all these measures are but the putting into execution of that general programme of extermination which the Young Turk had been premeditating for some time past. He also added that he was going to publish the result of his enquiries in the official organ of the Red Cross of Geneva.”

Our pages this month are sufficiently full of horrors to appease the appetite of any Turk or German. We will, nevertheless, give yet one more extract here, an interview the Italian paper *Messaggero* has had with the Italian Consul-General at Trebizond, who is now in Rome :—

“The Consul states that the situation in the interior of Turkey is desperate, and the population is unanimous in the desire for peace. The Consul confirmed the massacres of Armenians, which were the most dreadful in the history of Turkey.

“The Armenian population of seven vilayets had been almost annihilated, and Catholics had been included in the persecutions.

“Catholic Armenians of Trebizond to the number of 14,000 had been embarked on sailing ships and thrown into the sea, women and children included.

“The massacres lasted from June 24 until July 23, and 15,000 Turkish soldiers had supervised the executions at the orders of the Committee of Union and Progress.

“During the whole month the Consul was able neither to eat nor sleep on account of the impression made on him. The Consul, in conclusion, said that the whole civilised world ought to rise against such infamy which exceeded anything ever perpetrated in the history of humanity.”

The demonstration at the Russian Embassy on August 24th, engineered by Mr. Alfred Dent of the Stock Exchange, to celebrate the Russian naval victory in the Gulf of Riga, was a happily conceived idea, and we give below an account of it taken from the London papers :—

“The demonstration had its chief value in that it was entirely spontaneous and simple ; the crowd which gathered was clearly a crowd collected there only by the strains of the Lord Mayor’s recruiting band. It was a crowd composed of all sorts of people, from fashionable women in carriages to servant girls and nursery maids ; there were soldiers in its ranks, and business men and artisans and errand boys. Nevertheless, as soon as the object of the demonstration became apparent a wave of sympathy made the crowd representative of British opinion and sentiment.

“That was abundantly clear the moment the band stopped playing and the Russian Ambassador stepped out upon the balcony. A great cheer rose then that echoed far into the by-streets surrounding Chesham Place and swelled the ranks of the demonstrators. The Ambassador, who was accompanied by Countess Benckendorff, addressed the gathering from the balcony, telling them how deeply his countrymen appreciated the fact that with every reverse which Russia had suffered the friendship of England had seemed to grow stronger. ‘Russia will never forget,’ he declared. ‘God helping us, we have had one success and more successes will come, bringing peace to Russia, England, and the whole world.’

“A Russian flag was unfurled, and the band played the Russian National Anthem. Mr. Dent then called for three cheers for the Russian Army and Navy and all our Allies. Afterwards the Ambassador asked for cheers for the King, and then two Union Jacks were placed beside the Russian flag. The popular enthusiasm expressed itself in round after round of cheers, and as the Ambassador retired a voice in the crowd exclaimed, ‘God bless you, Sir, and God save Russia.’”

The warning of the Allied Powers that they would hold the members of the Turkish Government and officials, who were proved guilty of instigating Armenian massacres, personally responsible, has had its rejoinder from Constantinople. The Turks declare that no such massacres have taken place, but there have been disturbances fomented by the emissaries of Russia and England ; that the attitude adopted by these Powers has been the cause of all the trouble. They then proceed to say that all measures will be taken to maintain order, and to repress Armenian rebellion with military force ; and that no one can deny to Turkey the right of preserving her sovereignty . . . and

that the Ottoman Government holds the Triple Entente responsible for organising and directing the Armenian movement. These are brave words, but they scarcely reflect the truth, nor do they represent the correct aspect of affairs. The answer given to the Turks by *Horizon* of Tiflis is more to the point:—"All these are crimes committed by the Turks in their agony. Their red madness is finding satisfaction in Armenian blood. The warning of the Allied Powers may have failed to have effect; perhaps the Turks took it as a plutonic jest. But apart from Europe's threat, there is a Nemesis from which the leaders of present-day Turkey will never escape, wherever they may fly. There is a Nemesis—the avenging arm of suffering Armenia—which will pursue the murderers to their graves."

Elsewhere in this number will be found an account of the death of Khetcho, the brave cavalry commander, on the slopes of Kerkur. He was one of the pioneers of the revolutionary movement for the emancipation of Turkish Armenia. Born in 1872 at Nakhitchewan, on the Arax, he was educated at the Diocesan School at Shushi. Of a naturally retiring disposition, and simple and sober in his wants, he early decided to devote his life to the uplifting of his peasant fellow-countrymen. As a member of the Dashnaksuthiun party, he soon gave evidence of his personal valour; and in 1897 he was a member of the Armenian expedition to Khanasor on the Turco-Persian frontier, when the haunts of the notorious brigand, Sherif Bey, were destroyed. During the Armeno-Tartar disturbances of 1905-06 in the Caucasus, Khetcho was the organiser of the defence in the town and neighbourhood of Tiflis. In 1907 he crossed into Persia and joined Yeprem Khan, the Minister of Gendarmerie under the Persian Constitution, and Khetcho and Keri gave valuable assistance to Yeprem. In 1910, in an encounter with Rahim Khan at Karadagh, he was severely wounded by a bullet which shattered his chin. After a long rest in Switzerland, he answered the call of duty on the outbreak of the Turkish war, and was appointed commander of cavalry in Dero's Contingent of Volunteers; and on the reorganisation of the forces, he became second in command to Vartan, the Chief. It was practically Khetcho's cavalry which, after the capture of Van in May last, cleared the southern shores of the lake of the Turkish forces. His body was taken to Van and buried by the side of Ishkhan and others who had laid down their lives for the realisation of the ideal of Armenia's freedom.

The Armenian Volunteers have suffered another great loss by the death of Krikor Avsharian, Commander of the 6th Armenian Regiment. Captain Avsharian was born at Baku in 1891 and, after his early education, entered the Military Academy at Kazan, whence he passed into the Russian army. At the outbreak of the European war he was

sent to the front and fought against the Germans in Poland, where he was wounded, and for his exceptional bravery he was decorated with the Golden Sword of the Order of St. George. On his recovery from his wound he was permitted to give his services to the Armenian Volunteers, and became Commander of the 6th Regiment. He fought against the Turks in Alashkerd and Passin, and it was towards the end of June that, in an encounter in Passin with a body of Turks four times their number, he distinguished himself again and called forth from General Baratoff the encomium that the Armenians "fought like lions, not yielding a foot of ground." It was here that the young hero, at the head of his regiment, fell mortally wounded, and died soon afterwards—a promising young soldier who had shown his worth and had given his life for his country.

Without wishing to bring forward the names of Boadicea, Joan of Arc or the Maid of Saragossa, who were single instances of women smitten with military ardour, it is meet that we should record the martial enthusiasm which permeates the entire Armenian nation, men and women alike. It was at Kars recently that many female students from the Gymnasium, dressed as men, presented themselves to the Committee to be enrolled as Volunteers, but to their deep disappointment their disguise was discovered and their desire refused. But one young Armenian maiden has actually outwitted the authorities. She ran away from her home in Turkish Armenia in man's clothes, and crossed the Russian frontier to join her lover in one of the Armenian contingents. Her devotion has been rewarded, and, instead of being sent back to her home, she is now the standard-bearer of the regiment.

Russia and Armenia.

The Orange Book.

(Continued from page 10, Vol. III.)

VI.

Document No. 117 contains the text of the final concessions made by the Sublime Porte in the matter of Armenian reforms, and this is accompanied by the memorandum referred to in the Document immediately preceding. In his despatch to the Russian Foreign Minister the details of the reform scheme are thus set out by M. de Giers:—

I. There will be appointed two Inspectors-General as heads of the two sectors of the provinces of Eastern Anatolia. The duties of these Inspectors-General will comprise in superintending the general administration, justice, police, and the gendarmerie of the sectors under their jurisdiction. In the event of the forces at their disposal not proving sufficient for the maintenance of public order, they will be empowered, on their own initiative, to demand military forces being placed at their service for the prosecution of administrative acts undertaken by them within the boundaries of their sectors.

The Inspectors-General, in the event of necessity arising, will be empowered to dismiss officials whose misconduct and incapacity are beyond question, and, further, to prosecute such of these officials who have committed acts which lay them open to punishment. They will also have the power to fill such vacancies with candidates who fulfil the terms and qualifications laid down for service, in place of officials thus dismissed provisionally. The qualifications for officials who are to be newly appointed will be prescribed under new laws and rules; and the final confirmation of such new officials in their posts will be carried out in conformity with the conditions and formalities based on the above-mentioned laws and rules. In all cases of dismissal of officials, the Inspectors-General must notify their action to the Ministries concerned by short telegraphic reports explaining the justification of the step taken; they will then, within the following week, forward to such Ministry a detailed account of the causes and the deeds which have necessitated the dismissal of the officials. In important cases which may call for immediate action, it will be within the right and the jurisdiction of Inspectors-General to visit with instant dismissal the immovable officials of the judicial service, on condition that the Ministry of Justice be forthwith informed of the circumstances of each such case. In the event of such a step as dismissal being found necessary with regard to Valis, a course which would require especially strong reasons, the Inspectors-General must submit such question for the enquiry of the Ministry of the Interior, which must, in its turn, direct the immediate suspension from office of the Vali in question, and then submit the case for the decision of the Council of Ministers. Such decision must be given within the following eight days.

II. The Inspectors-General will preside over the Commissions which will be entrusted with the making of enquiries into agrarian disputes, and with powers to restore to Armenians lands which have been taken from them. Further detailed instructions with regard to the powers and the duties in this connection will be elaborated after the appointment of the Inspectors-General and with their collaboration.

In the event of the office of an Inspector-General becoming vacant, for some reason or other, within the ten years for which he is appointed, the Sublime Porte leaves to the good-will and the support of the Great Powers the task of appointing a new Inspector-General.

The principles whereby the Inspectors-General must be guided in their conduct of carrying out the reforms are the following:—Before a census is taken of the population, which must be done with the least possible delay, half the elected members of the Administrative Councils and General Councils, convoked under the supervision of the Inspectors-General, must be Moslems. The same principle must be applied, within the limits of possibility, in the distribution of public offices in both sectors. The competence of the General Councils in matters of legislation and annual estimates must be decided in conformity with the fundamental laws with regard to vilayets. The Hamidié regiments must be disbanded. The laws, the *iradés* and other governmental communications must be announced in each sector in the native languages. Every individual will be entitled to use his own language in the Courts and in the administration. Judicial decisions will be drawn up in Turkish and will be translated into the native languages as far as possible. Every community will be entitled to levy a special tax upon its own members for the benefit of its schools, which must be collected as *centimes additionels*.

Document No. 118 is a telegram, dated December 26th, 1913 (O.S.), from M. Sazonoff to M. de Giers, wherein he impresses on the Ambassador to bear in mind the following considerations during the negotiations:—

That it should be within the powers of the Inspectors-General not only to dismiss officials within their jurisdiction, but also to have the right to present for the Sultan's approval the appointment of high administrative officials.

That the rights and duties of the Inspectors-General, until more detailed instructions are elaborated, should be decided in general terms, whereby they would represent the highest embodiment of the civil power in their respective sectors.

That it is considered desirable to exclude the stipulation that local meetings and councils should consist half of Moslems and the other half of Christians, until a census has been taken.

That it is desirable that the clause regarding the lack of organisation for Justice should be re-introduced.

That it is also considered desirable to maintain the decision reached in the old programme with regard to the drawing of lots for recruits in their own conscription areas.

That in the memorandum are not mentioned the names of the several vilayets of which the two sectors will respectively consist.

The memorandum referred to above practically corresponds with the programme which, some time ago, was not formally approved by Germany. It cannot, therefore, form a subject for protest on Germany's part.

Document No. 119 contains a telegram, dated December 27th, 1913, from M. de Giers to M. Sazonoff. Therein the Ambassador states that the observations contained in the memorandum undoubtedly

correspond with the previous programme or programmes; but that such programmes, and particularly the one embodying the six points have never been officially accepted by the Sublime Porte, and only after prolonged negotiations have those points been modified in form. And as neither the German Ambassador nor his other colleagues have any intention, nor have they been instructed further by their respective Governments, to take extreme steps in demanding reforms, M. de Giers expresses the fear that he may find himself left in isolation, and that Russia may feel compelled to act alone by taking upon herself all the consequences, that is, the adoption of coercive measures in the event of opposition being shown by the Porte.

Document No. 120 is a telegram from the Russian Consul Adamoff (of Erzeroum) to M. de Giers, dated December 29th, 1913, wherein he informs the Ambassador that in secret meetings held in the town by Moslems, the subject of massacre of the Armenians had been discussed. Following the instructions of the Mollahs, Moslems have taken to wearing a special kind of white cowl; and, according to rumours, all is ready for massacres to be undertaken, and a signal is awaited from Constantinople. The leaders of the Young Turk party are publicly getting up signed protests against the proposed European control, hoping thus to throw all responsibility upon the Powers should any catastrophe occur, if the Powers have resolved to interfere in the matter of reforms. The Consul urges strong steps to prevent massacres.

Document No. 121 is a telegram from M. Sazonoff to M. de Giers, dated December 29th, 1913, stating that he has been informed by Count Pourtalis, the German Ambassador in Petrograd, that in the course of the latest negotiations with regard to Armenian reforms, he (M. de Giers) has introduced new claims which did not exist in the original programme which had the support of Germany. M. Sazonoff further states that his reply to the German Ambassador was by means of a memorandum, wherein he has repudiated such allegations and has pointed out the great concessions made by Russia with regard to the scheme of Armenian reforms. If the Sublime Porte, however, insists in its opposition, he (M. Sazonoff) has given a certain amount of latitude to the Ambassador at Constantinople by his telegram of December 26th so far as the defence of the various points is concerned.

Document No. 122 forms an enclosure containing a copy of the memorandum addressed by M. Sazonoff to the German Ambassador at Petrograd, and referred to in the previous document. In this memorandum M. Sazonoff proves by comparison that the scheme of reforms drawn up in November, and which had been accepted by the Russian Government as embodying the maximum of concessions, had been subjected to further important curtailment by the Sublime Porte. He therefore thinks it his duty to point out these curtailments made by Turkey, and to urge on Ambassador de Giers to insist upon the re-insertion of the points so curtailed.

Document No. 123 is a telegram, dated December 31st, 1913, from M. Sazonoff to M. de Giers in which he instructs the Ambassador to warn the Sublime Porte of the danger which may arise, if immediate steps are not taken by Turkey to prevent disturbances in the Armenian vilayets. He urges the Ambassador to convey the warning to the Porte in a most decisive and stern manner. A copy of this telegram, under Document No. 124 of the same date, is communicated by M. Sazonoff to the Russian Ambassadors in London and Paris, with instructions to propose to the Governments to which they are accredited that a similar warning should be addressed by them to Turkey, with a view to preventing any massacres of Armenians.

(To be continued.)

The Situation in Armenia.

The Nation's Greatest Ordeal.—In spite of the repeated official warnings of the Allied Powers to the "Young Turk" gang at Constantinople and the remonstrances of the neutral States, the persecution of Armenians in general shows no sign of abatement; on the contrary, the cruelty with which it is being carried out is increasing in severity in certain parts of the country. The Turks are apparently growing more desperate, the more they recognise that they are being driven into a tight corner; and it goes without saying that the greater the pressure that is brought to bear on them, the more ruthlessly will they avenge themselves on Armenians, deprived as they are of all means of self-defence. Was it not Talaat Bey, the Minister of the Interior, who solemnly affirmed to the Ambassador of a neutral Power that he would reduce Armenians to such a condition as would incapacitate them from thinking of autonomy for the next fifty years? And both he and Enver Pasha have since made public statements of a similar nature and, in conjunction with their pliant colleagues of the "Committee," have undertaken to carry out, with that thoroughness in organisation in which the Turk is an adept where cruelty is both the means and the end, their policy of the "consolidation" of Turkey and "Turkey for the Turks."

Affairs in the Province of Van.—Towards the end of July the military situation on the Transcaucasian front took an unfortunate turn for the Russo-Armenian forces. Apparently encouraged by the Russian reverses in Poland, the Turks sent large reinforcements, some 40,000 regular troops, to the Armenian front to commence a strong offensive. Previous to this, the outlying district on the western edge of Lake Van was being gradually cleared of Turks and Kurds. In the last week of July, Tadvan and the slopes of the Nimrud and Kerkur mountains had been captured by the Armenian Volunteers after severe struggles. In Urtab, Tukh and about twenty other Armenian

villages on the Lake, the entire population was found to have been massacred by the Turks—not a single living soul was found in these villages, which were now given over to howling dogs, while a large number of putrefied corpses had been washed ashore on the Lake and the rivers. These corpses, which were ascertained to be all of males, were terribly mutilated, but nothing was discovered as to the whereabouts of the women and children. The districts of Boulanik and Melazgerd had also been entirely cleared of the enemy. The advance of the Russo-Armenian forces, however, received a decided check at this point from the new Turkish counter-attack which was developed.

When the Armenian Volunteers were struggling for the capture of the heights of Kerkur, which may be regarded as the outer defences of Bitlis, they made several cavalry charges to break up the Turkish resistance and to relieve the town, lying some fifteen miles to the south, before its inhabitants were all put to the sword. By sunset of July 20th the Armenians captured the heights of Kerkur, but when they reached the summit, the town of Bitlis presented to their disappointed gaze a sheet of flames, and they knew that the worst had happened. Some female refugees, who managed to escape the Turkish cordon, have since related the story of fiendish massacres in the town, and the wholesale deportation of the women and children that had been left from the "drives" of last May and June.

The Heroic Death of Commander Khetcho.—It was in the capture of the heights of Kerkur on July 20th that this brave Armenian leader met his death. The Turks were strongly entrenched on the slopes of the mountain, supported by heavy field artillery. Khetcho determined to move quickly so as to avert, if possible, the destruction of Bitlis and the inevitable butchery of the helpless inhabitants that would follow. He resorted, therefore, to cavalry charges, and his mounted men, with their revolvers and sabres, accounted for hundreds of the enemy, and took trench after trench, for which they themselves paid a heavy price in casualties. The Turks were thus driven higher and higher up the mountain side, when they rallied and delivered a counter-attack; and it was in this fighting, which developed into a hand-to-hand combat, that Khetcho, at the head of a cavalry squadron, with the object of dislodging the enemy from his trenches, fell mortally wounded. A struggle ensued for the capture of his person by the Turks, who managed to snatch the rifle he was carrying and his field glasses; but Khetcho's followers were too much for them—they dashed forward, shot down the assailants and rescued their leader and his belongings, though by this last effort of his he had laid down his life. Thus passed away a daring commander of the Armenian forces—a great organiser and soldier who for twenty years has fought against Turks, Tartars and Persians, the oppressors of his race. His loss is mourned by the nation, and his memory as a heroic figure will be kept green.

Desperate Self-defence in Sassoun.—Over the extensive area of massacre and desolation in Armenia brought about by the policy of Enver Pasha, Talaat Bey and their following, there still remains one bright spot of hope and pride, where 15,000 Armenians of the Sassoun mountains, led by Goriun, Roupén and Vahan, have been fighting for their lives since the middle of May last. Towards the end of June a report was prevalent that four battalions of Turkish infantry, followed by mountain artillery, were on their way from Diarbekir "to quell the Armenian rebellion" in Sassoun.

The brave natives of these mountains inhabit the country extending from the south-west of the town of Mush almost to the fringe of the plain of Diarbekir and Haini. There are some forty Armenian villages in the district, surrounded by unfriendly Kurdish tribes on all sides except in the south-eastern corner. In normal times the Armenians have always managed to come to some kind of compromise with their Kurdish neighbours, often making common cause together to defy Turkish authorities in the payment of taxes and in their refusal to quarter Turkish soldiers. Now, however, circumstances have altered, a *Djihad* has been proclaimed by the *Khalifa*, and the "Young Turks" have avowedly adopted a policy of extermination towards Armenians. If the Kurdish neighbours adopt at least a policy of neutrality, it would require large Turkish forces to subdue the Sassounis.

The peasants in this region make their own ammunition from material extracted from their own soil; but to human endurance there is a limit. Towards the end of July the gradual advance of the Russo-Armenian forces into the plain of Mush inspired hope that these would be able to join hands with the defenders of Sassoun; but, by a dramatic turn of events, the Turks received large reinforcements on the Armenian front and adopted a strong offensive. Since then the Russo-Armenian forces have had a set-back and are retreating and fighting on the defensive. The fate of Sassoun undoubtedly hangs in the balance and those who know these brave and simple-minded mountaineers and have lived among them are peering into the immediate future of military developments with breathless expectancy and anxiety.

The Tragedy of Erzeroum.—The city of Erzeroum, the great fortress in Armenia, with a population of about 25,000 Armenians, as well as the entire vilayet of that name, are slowly bleeding to death in the cruellest manner. The city being an important military centre, since the beginning of the war has had within it large concentrations of Turkish troops. The military authorities have requisitioned all they could get, finally taking over the houses of Armenians for hospitals. Diseases and epidemics prevalent among the troops soon spread among the population, and the death-roll has been terrific. All men of military age have been detained; and consequent on the torture inflicted on them by the Turks, several teachers and leading men have succumbed in prison. Pilos, Atripet and seven other prominent men the Dashnaksuthiun party have been shot by soldiers on the road

to Erzingian, where they were being escorted under a strong military guard. One hundred and sixty well-to-do families of Erzeroum have been deported to remote parts of Asia Minor and their belongings and dwellings "confiscated" by Shakir Bey, the notorious representative of the "Young Turk" Committee in Erzeroum.

Plight of Armenians on the Black Sea Coast.—Four Greeks of Trebizond were carrying some maize to Kirasund when they were captured by a Russian boat and landed at Batoum early in July. These Greeks have given the following account of the position of Armenians along the Turkish coast of the Black Sea.

With few exceptions, Armenians have been driven from their homes from all sea coast towns, and in most cases without regard to sex or age. At Kirasund, some sixty young and prosperous Armenians were accused by the authorities of being in correspondence with the revolutionary committees in the Caucasus. After their arrest at night, they were rushed through some court-martial proceedings and the entire number taken outside the town and shot near a bridge. The Greeks have given the names of some of these unfortunate victims whom they knew well. After this wholesale murder, the authorities proceeded to deport the 250 Armenian families of Kirasund in the direction of Kharput, exception being made in the case of people over seventy years of age and some pregnant women. Nothing has yet transpired of their fate. The Government has, however, collected large numbers of Moslem immigrants in the vicinity, and a Government Commission is deliberating over the details for distributing the property of the deported among Moslem citizens.

According to the statements of these Greeks, few Armenians are left at Trebizond, the bulk of them having been removed to the hinterland of Asia Minor under harsh circumstances. Wealthy people were stripped of all they possessed and were compelled to march hundreds of miles to reach the destination of their exile. In passing through the streets of Trebizond, one of the Greeks said that he saw several Armenian school boys and girls, under the age of twelve, locked up in their school near the Bishop's residence. These unfortunate children were crying from the windows for help and food, but no one seemed to take any notice of them.

Heroic stand at Shabin-Karahissar followed by Massacre.—Instead of submitting to the Turk and being mercilessly butchered, the Armenians of Shabin-Karahissar (on the Trebizond-Sivas road) and the neighbourhood, some 4,000 strong, entrenched themselves in their homes from about the middle of May. They seized the town and repulsed all Turkish attacks, inflicting severe losses on them. According to these same Greeks, the Armenians were well-armed and possessed bombs and machine-guns by which they held out till the beginning of July. Then the Turks brought heavy reinforcements and overwhelmed the Armenians, who were running short of ammunition. The town was taken and thousands of women and children were put to death in cold blood.

At the time the Greeks left, the 800 Armenian defenders of Shanan, a village some 25 miles to the south-east of Trebizond, were still fighting and making desperate sorties to break the Turkish siege.

Armenian Exiles in Mesopotamia.—On July 14th three Armenian refugees reached Tabriz from Mosul, after a dreadful march through the mountains of Hekkiary and Urumiah. They came, they said, to plead for assistance for the 4,000 Armenian women and children who were deported from Bitlis last May. To a representative of the National Bureau at Tabriz they made the following statement.

There were but few old men among these 4,000 unfortunate captives, who had been compelled to march in the tropical heat of Mesopotamia from Bitlis to Suleimanie, a distance of some 200 miles. Many had fallen by the roadside owing to exhaustion and sickness, and those unable to bear the sufferings had simply been left behind to take care of themselves.

The women and children now in Mosul and Suleimanie were subjected to the grossest indignities at the hands of the Moslem rabble. Some were freely handed over to the worthy followers of the Prophet to be converted to Islam and to be taken in marriage, while others were sold and purchased at the bazaars as so much commodity, and the younger ones were presented to each other among Moslems. All these horrors were apparently connived at by the local authorities.

The Horrors of the Armenian exodus from Van.—In consequence of the expulsion of the Turks from Van and certain portions of the Bitlis district, some 160,000 Armenians seemed to have secured their safety from the clutches of the Turk. When, however, the latter undertook a furious counter-attack towards the end of July, the necessity was felt on military grounds of removing these 160,000 Armenians into Transcaucasia.

Then began one of the most tragic episodes of the war. Thousands of sick and exhausted women and children had again to leave their crops, cattle, or whatever they had been able to save from their previous escape, and to walk something like 70 to 150 miles across the Russian frontiers into their haven of safety. Means of transport were entirely absent, even the sick and the children could not be provided with carriages or *arabas*. The horrors were still further enhanced in view of the pressure of the Turks, who were advancing rapidly towards the Alashkerd valley so as to cut off their line of retreat, and to attack the Armenian Volunteer regiments on the south of Lake Van, to whom was allotted the special task of holding up the Turks in order to facilitate the flight of the women and children. Those of us who live in comfort can scarcely realise the indescribable agony of mind these unfortunate fellow-countrymen of ours must have gone through in their flight for life through the summer heat and dust.

A correspondent who went to Igdir, on the frontier, to arrange for food and accommodation for these refugees, writes as follows :—

"I wonder if it is possible to witness a more agonising sight than the present one. Human beings are dying in hundreds from hunger, thirst and exhaustion, and the means for relieving the distress are very scanty. There is absolutely no possibility of even buying bread. The first contingent of refugees has already reached this place. Owing to congestion on the roads, the human tide had to be broken up into two channels : about 100,000 walked through the plain of Abagha, their rear being guarded by the Russian army under General N. and the Armenian regiments under Andranig and Dero ; another 50,000 from the city of Van were diverted into Persia, their rear being defended by the mounted regiments of Keri and Hamazasp. Bloody rear-guard actions are being fought to stem the Turks and Kurds, who are pressing forward in order to cut the line of retreat of the Armenians."

In the course of this offensive the Turks recovered all Melazgerd, Boulanik and the entire country round Lake Van which they had lost in the spring ; they also burnt down the city of Van from which they had been expelled by the Armenians. But their success was short-lived. Within the last three weeks they have again been driven out of Van, Alashkerd and Melazgerd, after exercising their destructive efforts on what had been saved in the city and what had been since rebuilt.

The grave question which now confronts Armenians is the fate of the 160,000 newly arrived refugees in Transcaucasia, in addition to another 40,000 forming the second exodus of Armenians from Azerbaijan towards Erivan and Etchmiadzin. The efforts of the nation scattered throughout the world are imperatively needed to send aid to these refugees, the meeting of whose wants should not be left a burden solely on the shoulders of the Russian Government and Russian Armenians, who have already, since the war began, acted heroically in the task of succour.

A. S. SAFRASTIAN.

Etchmiadzin Honours the Armenian Forces.

Each nation has its own peculiar functions and ceremonials affecting national matters, which may seem quaint to the people of other countries. The Armenians, in their national life, are inseparably connected with their Church, and nothing is done by them which has not the blessing and support of religion—indeed, the Church is held to be the bond which has kept the nation together, and if this bond were ever broken, it would mean the disruption of national life.

One such quaint ceremonial is depicted in the illustration we give this month of the taking of the oath before a Volunteer Contingent goes forth to do or to die in the country's cause. The function takes the form of a full religious ceremony, with the attendant clergy clad in their rich robes of office. Another ceremonial which we will depict in words, is taken from the pages of *Ararat*, the organ of the Catholicos, and published in Armenian at Etchmiadzin. Here, too, the religious and the secular are so intertwined that no joy is given vent to by the people without its appropriate setting of the Church's supreme hold over their emotions—and yet it is not a narrow and cringing subservience of laity to clergy, as all who know the Armenian Church can testify, but a true brotherly compact, a vision of democracy wherein the laity recognises the high functions of the clergy, as the latter are conscious of the paramount duty and co-operation of the lay element.

April 28th and 29th last were days of historic import at Etchmiadzin. After some weeks' rest in Transcaucasia, where the Armenian Volunteer units had necessarily to refurbish their equipment and undergo some reorganisation, they were preparing to leave for the front again.

On the morning of the 28th special messengers brought the tidings that the army was approaching from Erivan, some 20 miles distant. His Holiness the Catholicos had previously issued instructions that the Volunteer Contingents should be accorded an appropriate reception within the precincts of Old Etchmiadzin. Accordingly, Bishop Ashod and Papken Vartabed proceeded as far as the Zwartnotz Church, an old church about two miles from Etchmiadzin, the ruins of which have recently been brought to light, to welcome the volunteers as representatives of the Catholicos ; and the people of Vagharshapat and the neighbourhood lined the route on both sides to a distance of about three miles. The approaching Volunteer Army was escorted from Erivan by Bishop Khoren, the Mayor Khatchatourian, and other notables of the place. It was about 5 p.m. that the commanding officers, followed by thousands of infantry and cavalry, met the representatives of the Catholicos and were soon surrounded by the multitude of people that had gathered for their reception.

There were the Commanders of Contingents, Keri, Khetcho,* Dero and Hamazasp, and at the head of all, the Commander-in-Chief Vartan. They were drawn up in line, and with their units behind them presented an imposing spectacle ; it was as if past days had returned when Armenian armies rallied in the *Airaratian Dasht* (the plain of Ararat) for drilling and preparation to withstand the Persians, the Saracens, the Mongols or the Turks. Here, on the part of the Catholicos, his representatives presented an address, which was read, welcoming the Volunteers to the time-honoured hearth of the Armenian nation and Church. To this Vartan, the Commander-in-Chief, made a suitable reply.

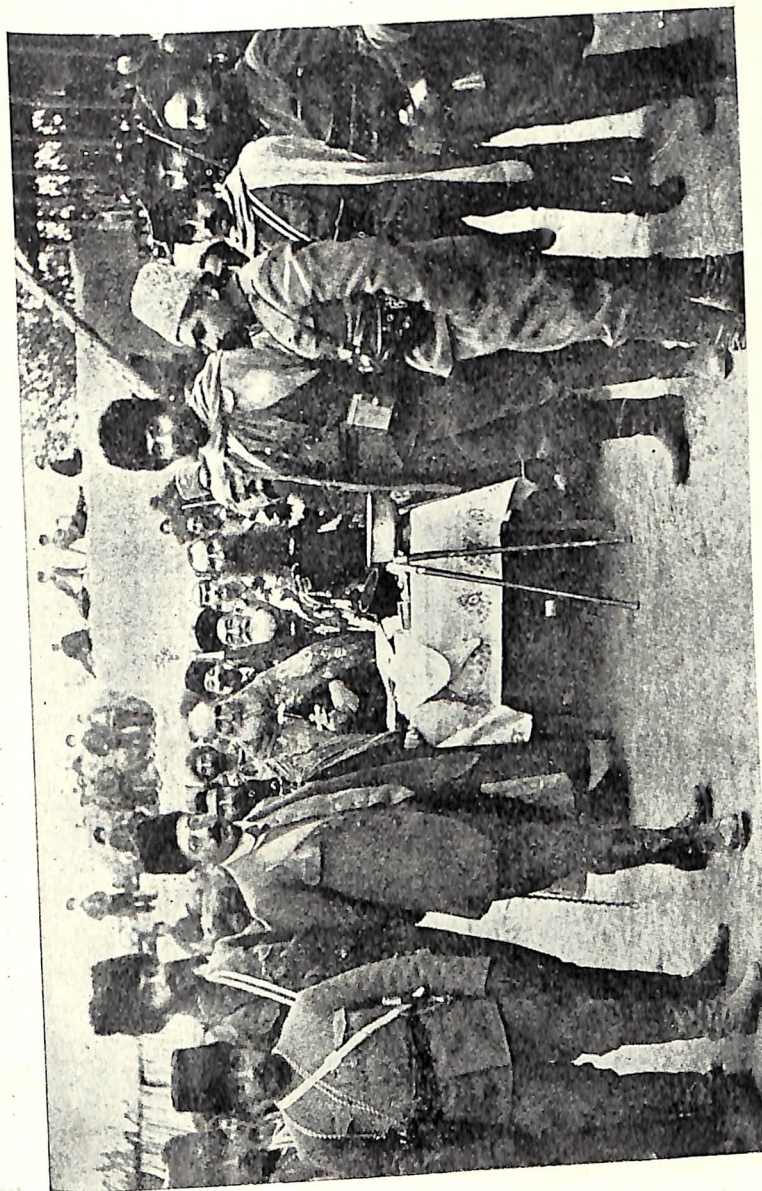
* It is with deep regret that we have to record that this brave leader fell on the battlefield while heroically leading a charge against the Turks at the foot of Kerkur, near Bitlis. His commanding figure will be observed in our illustration standing next to the bowl on the table on the right of the picture.—EDITOR, *Ararat*.

The procession then moved on its way to Etchmiadzin amidst the indescribable enthusiasm of the populace. All windows and balconies were garlanded with fresh flowers and the streets through which the Volunteer army moved were a sea of humanity; while showers of flowers fell on the heads of the marching troops all the way to the sanctuary. Just outside the outer walls of Etchmiadzin were marshalled the clergy, who met the army and led them straight to the Cathedral. The mighty bells then gave forth their mysterious chimes, and the ancient and weather-beaten walls of the Monastery, which have mutely witnessed the tragedy of centuries, seemed once again to look down on a pageant of joy, built on a veritable foundation of hope that a new and brighter page in Armenian history was about to open. The scene had its touching side no less than its grandeur; there were many who wept, and the tears that fell were the embodiment of the suppressed feelings of an entire nation that had drunk deep to the dregs of misery—to which many a one present could bear personal testimony.

It was in profound silence that the Commanders and their units entered the Cathedral to the full extent of its holding capacity; they knelt down in deep reverence after their salutation of the altar of *The Descent of the Only Begotten**; and we can well imagine the prayers that rose from the hearts of congregation and clergy for the success of their arms in the cause of right and justice, for the defeat of the tyrant powers that had held them in subjection for centuries, for the redemption of their brothers and sisters and children from the brutal tortures they were now undergoing. When this solemn function came to an end, the Volunteers were assigned every available corner of the spacious Monastery for rest—the Academy, the lecture rooms, the Pedagogic Institute, the hostelry, in fact the entire Monastery was at their disposal. At 8 p.m. the Commanders were received in audience by the Catholicos, who conversed with them freely and gave them his benediction in a few words. A supper followed, at which were present some Armenian poets and Russian officers; there were short speeches, and the prevailing sentiments were those of grim determination in their task intermingled, as the occasion lent itself, with gay joviality. While the Volunteers were resting within the precincts of the Monastery the populace outside Etchmiadzin gave themselves up to rejoicings until the small hours of the morning.

On the morning of the 29th, the place was astir early for the day's work. By order of the Catholicos a solemn mass was to be celebrated in the open, within the walled courtyard of Etchmiadzin. At 8 a.m. the four regiments of cavalry and infantry, under the general command of Vartan, were on parade in review order, and facing them on the other side were the entire clergy clad in their robes, all waiting for the arrival of the Catholicos. The latter, in his gorgeous robes and escorted by Bishops, was soon on the scene amidst general enthusiasm. Then, in the presence of an immense crowd, were said prayers for the Emperor of Russia and for the success of his arms. Standing in front of the

*This is the signification of the name *Etchmiadzin*, the spot where St. Gregory, the Illuminator, saw his heavenly vision.



Ceremonial of taking the Oath by an Armenian Volunteer Regiment
at Kagzyman.

Catholicos was a Volunteer holding a tricolor of red, white and blue, with a fringe of gold, and bearing thereon inscriptions in Armenian and Russian, *The Armenian Division*, while the commanders stood under its folds. Overhead was the blue sky and an unclouded sun, adding their natural solemnity to this unique ceremony.

After prayers had been said for the Emperor, the Catholicos delivered a short address, at the end of which he was visibly overcome by his emotions, which seemed reflected in his otherwise serene countenance, and a still and respectful silence pervaded the immense assembly. His dignified presence, however, with his heavy white beard, looking every inch the father of his flock, soon regained its self-possession, and he addressed the following words to the Volunteers: *Go to the land where my suffering flock are anxiously waiting for you to deliver them from being massacred, and punish the age-long enemy who has trampled under foot every law of humanity and chivalry.* The features of those to whom these words were addressed again wore that expression of grim determination to which we have already alluded—it was to follow the injunctions of their spiritual head, injunctions which but confirmed the instinctive sentiments of the entire nation.

The Catholicos then proceeded to bestow his benedictions on the Emperors of Russia, the historical liberators of the suffering Eastern Christians, on their glorious armies which were the main instruments of this chivalrous work of liberation. To the Volunteers he spoke encouraging words, that they were to be of assistance to the Russian army and to fight bravely by their side, and so, united, to shake off for ever from our land the yoke of Turkey. This patriotic appeal of the grand old Catholicos brought forth an outburst of *Long live the Nation!* and other appropriate sentiments.

Stepan Malkhasiantz, the Principal of the Academy, spoke a few words on the subject of the day and explained the part the Volunteers were going to play. Then Vartan and the other Commanders stepped forward to render the customary obeisance of kissing the hand of the Catholicos, who gave them his blessing and wished them God-speed. This ended the proceedings and His Holiness returned to his private apartments.

Amidst the strains of patriotic music the Volunteers began to march out in martial array, receiving the ovations and cheers of the crowd which kept pace with the infantry a long way out of Etchmiadzin. Among the non-commissioned staff were to be seen some priests and vartabeds. It was history repeating itself, for did not their forefathers of old in the fifth century, with the cross in one hand and a sword in the other, lead their detachments to attack the enemy on the banks of the Arax river, which still flows as the faithful witness of our nation's tragedy? Well, the Division was now on its way, and it divided up into two Contingents, each taking a separate route, but both with their faces set towards the land of desolation.

The news of massacres in the Van and Bitlis provinces in April last was already beginning to trickle through, and Vartan's plan was settled. With one portion of his Division he fought his way through the Plain of Abagha, forced the snow-blocked passes of Tabarez which was strongly defended by the Turks, fought at Bargri on the north of Lake Van, and after desperate encounters pushed his way through to Van itself, arriving there on May 19th to support the defenders, who, as we have already seen, had expelled the Turks "bag and baggage" three days previously. The other portion of his Division, under Dero and Samson, was sent to Khoj and Dilman in Persia in support of Antranig's regiment, which, since March last, had been engaged, with the aid of Russian contingents, in clearing Azerbaijan of Turks under Khalil Bey. This portion of the Division fought at Khoj and Hekkiary, and after clearing their way through Bashkalé and Khoshab, arrived at Van early in June.

The Pleading of Armenia's Cause.

We know what drawing-rooms have often done for great causes, and we are conscious that it is woman's co-operation with man that brings cut in such gatherings the best in humanity and tends to the furtherance of human good. Though drawing-rooms still maintain their potency in the political world, the tea-room of the twentieth century is no less a gathering place for the intellect of both sexes, and for the discussion and ventilation of problems which are crying for solution.

It was at such a gathering recently at Dame Mary's Tea Rooms, 155, Brompton Road, the cosiest and daintiest of tea-rooms in London, where people meet to discuss the serious problems of Life, that Mrs. Frost, among whose many interests the cause of Armenia is fortunately included, brought together a goodly company to talk of our country and its future. The chair was taken by Baroness Barnekow, of Sweden, while there were to be seen in the room many faces that are familiar and well-known in public life. The gathering was practically devoted to the cause of Armenia, and Miss F. R. Scatcherd, whose vehement interest in nations that are unjustly and viciously treated is well known, and who has taken Armenia under her able protection, was invited to deliver a lecture, the gist of which we will reproduce here. All this is a set-off in part against the callous indifference—can there be a diplomatic cause for this?—which the press of this country, with one or two honoured exceptions, has shown in keeping the name of Armenia severely in the background.

The Baroness Barnekow introduced the lecturer in the following terms:—

"Ladies and Gentlemen,—There is no need for me to introduce Miss Scatcherd to you. To every one who takes an interest in politics, psychical research or humanitarian problems, her name is well-known.

Most of us have no doubt read her talented articles in the *Asiatic Review*, the *Christian Commonwealth*, the *Psychic Gazette*, and other papers and magazines; some of us have had the privilege of reading her charming little poems; and I also believe that many of us know her under the beautiful name given to her by the eminent Greek sociologist, Dr. Drakoules, 'the M.P. for Humanity.'

"She does not as a rule take up popular causes that appeal easily to the crowd. She feels her mission is to work hard and conscientiously for the weak and down-trodden, following in the footsteps of her friend, Mr. W. T. Stead. In this case Miss Scatcherd thinks that England, owing to certain pledges which she will explain to us this afternoon, has *not* done everything she could have done to safeguard the Armenians from Turkish atrocities.

"I have great pleasure in calling upon Miss Scatcherd to give us her views upon Armenia in the past, the present and the future."

Miss Scatcherd, who divided her lecture into three parts, thus proceeded:—

"It may seem an impertinence to stand here to discuss the past, present and future of a country I have never visited. But that fact disqualifies me only for dealing with the present of Armenia. All politicians and historians have to depend on second-hand knowledge with regard to the past, and have nothing but speculations and deductions to guide them as to the future. So, if in dealing with the present of Armenia, I give you the first-hand experiences of personal friends, travellers like Noel and Harold Buxton, practical men like Sir Edwin Pears, and patriotic and gifted Armenians like Colonel Gregory, the editor of *Ararat*, Ondon Bey, and the Turkish Deputy, Dr. Thoumaian, whose life history throws a painfully vivid light upon Armenian history during the present generation, I think you will have a truer picture of present day Armenia than you would have had even if I had spent many years in that martyred country, and confined myself to giving you the results of my own observations only.

I.

"I shall deal with the Armenia of the Past as briefly as possible. You can all make a fuller acquaintance with the subject through existing literature. Armenia's proudest boast is that she has ever served the best interests of humanity and civilisation. Situated as she was between the strongholds of Asiatic barbarians, Mongols, Tartars, Seljouks and Turks, who afterwards became Moslems, and the civilised nations who later on adopted the Christian faith, the history of Armenia has been one long struggle, not only for her national existence, but for all that is highest and noblest in human history. I will not go into the details of this age-long conflict, which is but one long and terrible record of horrors. The names, among others, of Toghrul Beg, of Alp-Arslan, of Jenghis Khan, have become bye-words for the most awful inhumanities and barbarities that the human mind

has ever been able to imagine or invent. The pillage and destruction of the fair and cultured lands of the Eastern and Western Empires seem ever to have been the one aim and object of these Asiatic hordes from the highlands of Central Asia, whence they poured down upon their unfortunate neighbours. In order to carry out their projects of spoliation and destruction they had first to traverse Armenia.

"But then, as later, they entirely miscalculated the strength and power of resistance of this handful of people, to crush whom seemed the easiest task in the world. Every time these attempts were made, Armenia rose to the occasion and resisted with such surprising tenacity and valour, that she became a valuable barrier between these barbarians and the more civilised nations it was desired to overwhelm; and for some centuries this little country stood as the *advance guard* of the civilised world. For, be it remembered, the Armenians are a highly civilised people. All through the country are found ruined palaces, fortresses and monasteries, eloquent of vanished glories. They were among the first to adopt Christianity, and their churches date back to the early centuries of the Christian era.

"Professor Edgar Banks tells us that the new stone library at Etchmiadzin in Russian Armenia contains thousands of ancient Armenian manuscripts and that there are cuneiform inscriptions in the museums twenty-five centuries old. Nor must scholars forget that Armenian learning in the fifth century saved to posterity, by its translations, early writings, the originals of which were afterwards irretrievably lost. True, Armenia succumbed at last in the long-drawn struggles, just as Belgium of to-day has been worsted in unequal contest against overwhelming odds.

"She hindered the onrush of the Ottoman Turk as brave little Belgium impeded the onslaught of the Turks of Western Europe. And this service she has rendered to the world, not for a few weeks, or months, or years, but for centuries. She fell wounded and bleeding, and was often nigh unto death, yet few of those, for whom she was giving her life, stretched forth their hands to staunch her gaping wounds. Like the priest and the Levite of old, the Powers of Europe passed by on the other side, leaving her to perish in her extremity. All through these dark ages she kept the torch of true religion alight, and the banner of Christian culture flying in the highlands of Armenia and in the remote corners of Asia Minor. But for the constant resistance of Armenia, thus breaking the force of the impetuosity of the first onrush of these barbarian hordes, the Turks would have overrun the Eastern Empire long before 1453, and the whole of Europe would have been devastated by fire and sword.

"Such has been the role of Armenia in the past—long-drawn-out centuries of defensive warfare and martyrdom. This it is which constitutes her claim upon Europe to-day, that Europe for whose welfare she has so valiantly contended in the past, and whose cause she is successfully espousing at the present moment.

II.

"This brings us to the second part—Armenia as we find her to-day.

"She is passing through one of the most critical periods of her history. Armenia is one of the battle-grounds of the present war, and like northern France, Belgium and Poland, her territory is ravaged and laid waste by the contending armies. The Turks, convinced at last that on this occasion Armenia may slip through their fingers, are pursuing a policy of extermination. They are determined that if they have to retire from Armenia it shall be a desolate and devastated Armenia left behind."

Miss Scatcherd then proceeded to quote passages from *Travel and Politics in Armenia*, the work of the brothers Buxton, written from personal observations not long before the outbreak of the "Great War": "To any one going there for the first time, the condition of Turkish Armenia is a perfect revelation of tyranny, stupidity and crime." "What have the Turks been doing these 600 years? There is not a trace of any constructive effort. Naturally the soil is rich and productive, but nothing is done to develop it." "The Armenians are the only people with constructive ideas. They are obliged to hide their wealth if they have any. It is amazing how, in spite of the risks, they have been able to start schools everywhere." Such are a few of the apt quotations we need reproduce here.

The lecturer thus continued: "In those parts of Armenia still in their hands, the Turks confiscate the property and goods of the Armenians, and the male population is forced to work for the army, making trenches and doing other manual work. Wholesale executions take place under the flimsiest of pretexts. Three Armenian members of Parliament have already been hanged, two at Constantinople and one at Van. Had Dr. Thoumaian been in Constantinople at the present time, we should probably have heard that he had shared the fate of his brother deputies. Thirty others have been hanged at Angora. Leading and influential Armenians are deported to the remotest parts of the country and reduced to beggary when they are not murdered. The patriarch, who protested against this treatment of his people, was harshly threatened and summarily dismissed. In a word, the whole Armenian population under Turkish rule lives in daily dread of annihilation.

III.

"Gloomy as the present state of affairs may be, the future of Armenia is bright with hope. The Turks may torture and kill, rob and devastate, yet the Armenians will survive. Their past history has proved how remarkable their recuperative power is, and in a very short time they will rebuild and restore their stricken country. Armenia has outlived all her ancient invaders, who treated her as the Ottomans treat her to-day, and she will survive them as she has survived their shameless predecessors.

"The one hope of Armenians is that after the overthrow of the Turk, Armenia will definitely be freed and will be granted by the Allied Powers an autonomous form of Government. Although they are suffering terribly just now at the hands of the Turk, their anxiety is perhaps less about their own fate than it is with regard to the action of the Allied Powers in the immediate future, and especially of Great Britain. They fear a repetition of the old game of 1878, when Britain, befriending the Turk, thrust liberated Armenia back again into the hell of Ottoman misrule by means of the Berlin Treaty. True, Britain is to-day expiating her past misdeeds, but there is no guarantee that she will not repeat the mistaken policy of upholding Turkey as a buffer State, as a barrier safeguarding her Indian Empire.

"There is, however, every hope, with the ever growing sympathy between the Allies, and the new birth of Russia as one of the great liberalising and democratic Powers, that, in the coming adjustment at the close of the terrific world-war, none of the European Powers will be base enough to allow Christian Armenia to remain under the hopelessly corrupt and cruel rule of the Turk. At the close of the war Britain will have a deciding voice in the arrangement of Eastern affairs, and the fate of Armenia practically rests in her hands. If she does her duty, Armenia will be sure of receiving long-delayed justice on the part of Europe.

"The main question for the future of Armenia is this:—Will Britain discharge her obligations to the Belgium of Asia?

"Hitherto the invariable excuse urged by the Powers for neglecting all appeals on behalf of Armenia, whether emanating from Armenia or from her friends, has been the fear of arousing the opposition of rival interests among themselves. As an example, we may remember that Russia and Germany in 1895 opposed Lord Salisbury's proposal of British intervention after the Hamidian massacres.

"To-day this excuse no longer exists. Germany, we hope, will have no voice in the matter, and Russia has expressed herself favourable to the legitimate nationalist aspirations not only of Armenia, but of Poland and Finland as well.

"It must be admitted, with sorrow, that Britain has not always been ideally just to her Christian brethren in Asia Minor. She is now about to reduce Turkey to harmlessness and to open up the Dardanelles. Germany has been a still greater offender against equity, and is now suffering and will suffer yet more for her condonation of the infamous *Sultan Rouge* in his massacres of inoffensive and loyal Ottoman subjects. The price of this infamy was the concessions which enabled her to build the Baghdad Railway.

"The future of Armenia, I maintain, is in the hands of Britain, and all right-minded men and women amongst us must use their influence to ensure the rendering of full justice to a noble and long-suffering people."

Though we have given a bare outline of Miss Scatcherd's lecture, it was made even more interesting by stories and personal incidents. A discussion followed, in which several took part, including Mrs. Balfour, the Hon. Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Humphreys, and Miss Koran, who described two massacres that came under her own observation. Mr. H. J. Adams, who is working hard for the cause, though he did not speak, has recorded some valuable suggestions—(i) that those who can afford to subscribe to the Armenian Fund should do so; (ii) that those who cannot afford to do this *in addition* to the other demands caused by the war, such as the Belgian, French, Russian and other Funds, should subscribe to the Armenian Fund *in substitution* of some one of those other worthy objects, till such time as the Armenians had got something like their *pro rata* share of the subscriptions; (iii) the above would be a trifling offset to the callous way in which Europe had treated their just grievances. The Rev. S. Harris was present at both this and a former lecture, and kindly offered to hold meetings on behalf of the Armenian Red Cross, and to work for the cause here and in America. For this we are grateful.

Turkish Methods—Armenia without Armenians.

We print below the translation of a letter from Constantinople, emanating from a source of undoubted trustworthiness, addressed to a high dignitary of the Armenian Church in a neutral country, which has just reached us:—

"CONSTANTINOPLE.

"July 13th, 1915.

"From May 25th events have followed hard upon each other, and the plight of our people has entered upon its most bitter and horrible stage. Till that day, we had only been aware of the enforced deportation of the Armenian inhabitants of a few towns and villages in Cilicia, and from Erzeroum only vague rumours had reached us. But we know to-day for certain that the entire Armenian population of Cilicia has been uprooted and has been driven into the desert regions to the south of Aleppo. Also since May 1st all the population of the province of Erzeroum, of Samsoun, Kaissarieh, Diarbekir, Tokat, Trebizonde, Sivas, Kharput, Bitlis, without exception, have been driven to the deserts of Mesopotamia.

"'Armenia without the Armenians'—such is the plan of the Ottoman Government, which has already begun to instal Moslem families in the homes and property of the Armenians. Needless to say the deported are not allowed by the Government to take any of their belongings with them, and as there is moreover no means of transport owing to the exigencies of the military, they are forced to

cover on foot the two or three months' journey to that corner of the desert region which is destined to be their sepulchre. The whole way to the Euphrates is full of the corpses of these miserable people who have no shelter and no means of subsistence.

"This plan of doing away with the Armenians, without fuss, and without the semblance of a massacre, is a dastardly crime. It must be remembered that not only all males between the ages of 20 and 45, but those between 15 and 20 and 45 and 60 have been pressed into the transport service. Those who have paid the exemption tax, having been already exiled or imprisoned for one reason or another, the deported consist for the greater part of old men, women and children, who have to travel through regions which even in times of peace are considered most dangerous. Not only Kurds and brigands, but gendarmes and Government officials combine in plundering them and openly violating the women and girls. From various parts we also hear of conversions to Mohammedanism—it appears they have no other means of saving their lives.

"Military Courts are unscrupulously at work everywhere. You have no doubt heard of the hanging of 20 Hentchakists in Constantinople, which was contrary to every known law in the country. On the same day 12 men were hanged in Kaisserieh on the pretext that 'They had been carrying out the instructions issued by the Secret Committees of Armenian Revolutionary parties in Bucharest.' Besides those hanged, 32 others were sentenced to 10 to 15 years' penal servitude, the majority being harmless and respectable merchants. In Cilicia, too, 12 men have been hanged. Imprisonment for trivial offences such as being in possession of arms, books, or even pictures, is a daily event. Deaths by bludgeoning are numerous—13 in Diarbekir, 6 in Kaisserieh, etc. Murders on the road are also frequent, 13 people on the way from Shabbin-Karahissar, the priests of the village of Kurk with five fellow travellers on the way from Sou-Sherk to Sivas. I do not seek to enumerate all the numerous instances of torture, raids, etc. perpetrated on the pretext that arms and rebels were concealed on the premises. Not a house has escaped, not a church, not a school. Hundreds of women and children have been thrown into prison. Churches and monasteries have been robbed, wrecked and desecrated. Even the religious heads have not been spared, the Rev. Barkev Daniellian of Broussa, the Rev. Kevork Tourian of Trebizonde, the Bishop Khosroff Behrighian of Kaisserieh, the Rev. Vaghinag Torighian of Shabbin-Karahissar, the Rev. Kevork Nalbantian of Tcharshanjak, etc., have been imprisoned and handed over to the military authorities. The Suffragan of Diarbekir, Muggerditch Vartabed, has been beaten to death. There is no news from the clergy of the other towns, most probably they also have been imprisoned.

"All postal and telegraphic communication with Armenians in Turkey is entirely suspended.

"The Armenian villages around Van and Bitlis have been pillaged and destroyed and the inhabitants massacred. A general massacre took place at the beginning of this month in Shabbin-Karahissar, where only a few children were spared. Unfortunately, details reach us very late.

"You will thus see that the days of the Armenians in Turkey are numbered. We ourselves have no means of preventing or putting it off. If the Armenians of Europe or America are unable to obtain the help of neutral Powers, there are not likely to be many left in a few months of a people which numbers 1,500,000. Annihilation is inevitable."

Confirmation of the above state of affairs we have been receiving for some time past. But for fear it should be said that information received from Armenian sources must needs be biased and exaggerated, we print below an article received in New York by the United Press from Mr. Henry Wood, its special correspondent in Constantinople—and this is what he says:—

"So critical is the situation that Ambassador Morgenthau, who alone is fighting to prevent wholesale slaughter, has felt obliged to ask the co-operation of the Ambassadors of Turkey's two Allies. They have been successful to the extent of securing definite promises from the leading members of the Young Turk Government that no orders will be given for massacres. The critical moment for the Armenians, however, will come, it is feared, when the Turks may meet with serious reverses in the Dardanelles or when the Armenians themselves, who not only are in open revolt but are actually in possession of Van and several other important towns, may meet with fresh successes. It is this uprising of the Armenians who are seeking to establish an independent Government that the Turks declare is alone responsible for the terrible measures now being taken against them. In the meantime, the position of the Armenians and the system of deportation, dispersion, and extermination that is being carried out against them beggars all description.

EYE-WITNESSES' ACCOUNT.

"Although the present renewal of the Armenian atrocities has been under way for three months it is only just now that reports creeping into Constantinople from the remotest points of the interior show that absolutely no portion of the Armenian population has been spared. It now appears that the order for the present cruelties was issued in the early part of May, and was at once put into execution with all the extreme genius of the Turkish police system—the one department of government for which the Turks have ever shown the greatest aptitude, both in organisation and administration. At that time sealed orders were sent to the police of the entire Empire. These were to be opened on a specified date that would ensure the orders being in the hands of every department at the moment they were to be opened. Once opened, they provided for a simultaneous descent at practically the same moment on the Armenian population of the entire Empire.

"At Brussa, in Asiatic Turkey, the city which it is expected the Turks will select for their capital in the event of Constantinople falling, I investigated personally the manner in which these orders were carried out. From eye-witnesses in other towns from the interior I found that the execution of them was everywhere identical. At midnight the police authorities swooped down on the homes of all Armenians whose names had been put on the proscribed list sent out from Constantinople. The men were at once placed under arrest, and then the houses were searched for papers which might implicate them either in the present revolutionary movement of the Armenians on the frontier or in plots against the Government which the Turks declare exist. In this search carpets were torn from the floors, draperies stripped from the walls, and even the children turned out of their beds and cradles in order that the mattresses and coverings might be searched.

"Following this search the men were then carried away, and at once there began the carrying out of the system of deportation and dispersion which has been the cruellest feature of the present anti-Armenian wave. The younger men for the most part were at once drafted into the army. On the authority of men whose names would be known in both America and Europe if I dared mention them, I am told that hundreds if not thousands of these were sent at once to the front ranks at the Dardanelles, where death in a very short space of time is almost a certainty. The older men were then deported into the interior, while the women and children, when not carried off in an opposite direction, were left to shift for themselves as best they could. The terrible feature of this deportation up to date is that it has been carried out on such a basis as to render it practically impossible in thousands of cases that these families can ever again be reunited. Not only wives and husbands, brothers and sisters, but even mothers and their little children have been dispersed in such a manner as to preclude practically all hope that they will ever see each other again.

YOUNG TURKS' RUTHLESS DECISION.

"In defence of these terrible measures which have been taken, the Turks at Constantinople declare that no one but the Armenians themselves are to blame. They state that when the present attack began on the Dardanelles, the Armenians were notified that if they took advantage of the moment when the Turks were concentrating every energy for the maintenance of the Empire to rise in rebellion, they would be dealt with without quarter. This warning, however, the Armenians failed to heed. They not only rose in rebellion, occupying a number of important towns, including Van, but extended important help to the Russians in the latter's campaign in the Caucasus.

"While this is the Turkish side of the situation, there is also another side which I shall give on the authority of men who have passed practically their entire lives in Turkey and whose names, if I dared mention them, would be recognised in both Europe and America as

competent authority. According to these men, the decision has gone out from the Young Turk party that the Armenian population of Turkey must be set back fifty years. This has been decided upon as necessary in order to ensure the supremacy of the Turkish race in the Ottoman Empire, which is one of the basic principles of the Young Turk party. The situation, I am told, is absolutely analogous to that which preceded the Armenian massacres under Abdul Hamid. So far, however, the Young Turks have confined themselves to the new system of deportation, dispersion, and separation of families."

Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund.

There is scarcely a ray of light to be seen on the Armenian horizon. Our pages will show to what extremity the wretched Armenian inhabitants of the Turkish Empire have been brought. We doubt if the world's history presents a similar case of wanton extermination decreed by a cruel and effete ruling Power that is in league with a Western nation, priding itself on having reached the zenith of culture and civilisation.

Those are fortunate indeed who have crossed the border into the haven of Russian protection, though they have lost their all in worldly goods and comfort. These are the people for whom succour is needed, and needed urgently. We earnestly plead again for all the help the charitable can give, conscious that their contributions go direct to the source whence relief is distributed, and that no part of it is deducted towards organisation or expenses, a point which must have been patent to all who have scanned the cash accounts connected with this Fund, which we publish monthly in full detail.

The following is a statement of our account since our last issue:—

	£	s.	d.
<i>Receipts:—</i>			
Armenian Colony in Burma, 4th instalment ..	100	0	0
Mr. O. Andreasian (3rd donation) ..	30	0	0
Colonel Sir Henry Trotter ..	5	0	0
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co. ..	5	0	0
James Pascall, Ltd. ..	3	3	0
Mr. J. Colman ..	1	1	0
Mr. H. J. Adams ..	1	1	0
Mr. W. P. Musgrave ..	1	1	0
Fuller's, Limited ..	1	0	0
Chocolat Klaus, S.A. ..	0	15	0
Misses M. Swinford and I. Lawrence ..	0	10	6
J. S. Fry & Sons, Ltd. ..			
Mr. G. C. Armstrong and Boys of St. George's School, Harpenden (2nd donation) ..	0	10	0

Receipts—Cont.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. G. C. Armstrong (3rd donation)	0	10	0
James Methven, Son & Co., Ltd.	0	10	0
A. J. Caley & Son, Ltd.	0	10	0
Mrs. E. O'Sullivan	0	7	6
"A Friend"	0	5	0
Mrs. W. Barrington	0	3	0
Captain Borthwick	0	2	6
Mr. J. Nairn	0	2	6
Collected by Mrs. Diana Agabeg Apcar, by sale of Patriotic Postcards in Java through Mr. G. L. Apcar	18	5	2
Total received in August	170	18	2
Amount previously received	7,249	2	9
Grand total	£7,420	0	11

Expenditure :—

	£	s.	d.
Remitted to the Catholicos to July 31st	6,910	0	0
Remitted during August	400	0	0
Balance in hand on August 26th.. ..	110	0	11
Grand total	£7,420	0	11

The total sum remitted through our Association to His Holiness the Catholicos since January last, when the Fund was started, now amounts to £7,310. The national gratitude will go out to those who have helped to make our efforts so successful, but the pressure on our charity is even greater at this moment, as we have pointed out above, and we do not mean to relax our efforts to meet the increasing need.

We desire to correct an error which crept into the list of contributions published by us in the issue of May last, on page 433, Vol. II. Among the receipts was the item, "Armenian Colony in Hongkong, £100"; this should have read, "Mr. A. V. Apcar, Hongkong, £100," as that gentleman was the sole contributor of that amount. The words "2nd instalment" against the contribution of the "Armenian Colony in Hongkong" on page 22 of the July issue should therefore be deleted.

We notice with pleasure a musical concert given at the Armenian Club in Rangoon in aid of "The Armenian War Refugees Relief Fund." The programme, which has just reached us, is full of interesting items, among which, as an inspiring contribution from war ditties, *Tipperary* has its place. The performers, with one exception, that of the reciter of *A Drunkard's Dream*, were all Armenians. We have received £600 from the Burma Colony already, and we commend their method of adding to the Fund by concerts, which might be imitated with advantage elsewhere with the help of good organisers.

The Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund.

The accounts which have appeared in the newspapers recently of the barbarous and fearful cruelties committed on Armenians in Turkey, which must be, alas, only too familiar to readers of *Ararat*, are almost paralysing in the effect they have on those who read them. Yet full as our hearts are of sorrow and horror, we must spur ourselves on to fresh efforts in the attempt to relieve the new needs, appalling in their extent, which have been thereby created.

During the past month the following sums have reached us: £50 each from Mrs. Thomasson and John Galsworthy; £15 from Mrs. Wedgwood; £10 10s. from J. T. Brigg; £10 each from "Wesleyan Minister and Wife," "P., Col. James Cavendish, Miss Clough; £5 each from Miss Middlewood, W. Davidson, J.P., H. Kennedy, R. Tinkler, Mrs. S. Adamoff; £3 each from Wm. Hill and Mrs. Stewart; £2 2s. from Superior, House of Prayer, Pleshey and Captain Lodge; £2 each from Mrs. Cumming Brown, Miss E. Owen, Mrs. Bazett, and the Misses Cam; £1 5s. from Mrs. M. C. Black; one guinea each from W. H. Brasher, Mrs. Conington, M. Barseghian, M.B., Rev. W. R. Bowman, J. F. B. Tinling, Miss Beatrice Martyn, James Yates, Mrs. Jackman, Miss Boswell, Miss Ethel Harland, Rev. E. W. Elliott, A. W. Scott; £1 each from Miss Oliver, Miss Lawson, Miss Wilhelmina Duncan, Miss J. Wenham, Miss Baker, Miss A. V. Venning, "C. E.," H. L. Thomas, Anon., Eleanor Bridges, Sidney Bennett, Anonymous, Miss Caroline Thompson, Mrs. Robert Hay, M. L. Breakell, "For Armenia," Mrs. L. A. Walker, Mrs. Blatherwick, the Misses Seth-Smith, Mrs. Ross, Miss Ward, Canon Darling, Mrs. T. Ovenden and Sunday School Children of Bearsted, Mrs. Collis Pinder, Miss H. Packer (New Zealand), Mrs. T. T. Bell, and Miss Emily Richards. There are many smaller sums, and most of the contributions are accompanied by words of sympathy. The Fund now totals £2,300.

On July 27th the following telegram, signed by Ayyadian, Archbishop of Van, and Aram, Governor of Van, was received by the Hon. Secretary from Erivan:—"Besides Van, the provinces of Chatakh, Moks, Sparkert, Mamertank and Khizan are saved, the others are ruined and devastated. Men, women and children have been massacred. Twenty thousand people are homeless. Famine and infectious diseases prevail. Many volunteers are sick and wounded. Notwithstanding assistance from the Russian Government and from Armenians in the Caucasus, there is great want of doctors, drugs, ambulances, provisions. The situation in Bitlis, Moush, Diarbekir is most terrible. We beg urgently for immediate help." In reply to this the sum of £400 was cabled out next day, which nearly depleted our resources.

With reference to the £300 acknowledged last month as collected by Mr. L. S. Arathoon, of Macassar, Dutch East Indies, we hear the amount was subscribed chiefly by Dutch and Chinese friends in Macassar. Our specially grateful thanks are due to these kind donors whose generous, timely aid enabled us to respond at once to the call for help of the Archbishop and Governor of Van.

Our consignment of drugs is on its way to Tiflis. We shall be very thankful to send more as soon as funds permit.

Another appeal from the Governor of Van says: "All Van (the province) is turned into a hospital. There is practically no family where there is not more than one patient. There are 3,000 sick in Aghtamar alone. Typhus and dysentery are decimating the population. On the north side of the lake 5,000 are lying sick. There are no hands to gather the scanty crops, still less to organise relief work and medical aid." He goes on to appeal for (1) doctors and nurses, with all necessary drugs and appliances; (2) provisions, even bread, sugar, tea, etc., being very scarce; (3) agricultural implements and farm animals, all having been stolen or destroyed by Turks.

Since these appeals were issued Van has twice changed hands. It was taken by the Turks on August 11th, and re-taken by the Russians on August 16th. Before the Russian army evacuated the city the Armenian population of Van and the neighbouring vilayets, to the number of nearly 200,000, was sent across the Trans-Caucasian frontier. These people had to fly for their lives, and have lost everything. Their sufferings during their flight may be imagined as 30 % of them were sick and unable to walk. Very few ox carts or arabas were to be had. There must now be nearly a quarter of a million destitute people to be provided for, and wants of every kind are increased fourfold.

If possible a consignment of warm clothing will be sent to Tiflis the first week in October. Warm, woollen garments of any description for men, women and children will be thankfully received and acknowledged. They may be sent to the address of the Hon. Secretary between the middle and end of September. The clothes should be new or in excellent condition. Men's cycling, shooting or football stockings will be specially useful.

If any reader of these lines knows the present address of Madame Woski (or of her children), who formerly lived at Tiflis, and who moved to Germany, will he or she very kindly communicate it to the Hon. Sec.?

Contributions for the Fund will be gratefully received by Miss E. J. Robinson, the Hon. Secretary, at 35A, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W. All communications regarding the Fund should be addressed to her.

EMILY J. ROBINSON.

Parliament and Press on Armenia.

With the ventilation in the British Parliament of the position in Armenia, the Press of this country seems to be awakening from its callous indifference and is giving more space to the heartrending trials of Armenians under the dastardly methods of the Turk. We owe it to Viscount Bryce for bringing before the House of Lords on July 28th the existing painful state of affairs. The following is an account of the proceedings in that Chamber:—

REPORTED MASSACRES IN ARMENIA.

VISCOUNT BRYCE asked the Lord President of the Council whether His Majesty's Government had any information regarding the massacres of the Christian inhabitants which were reported to have been committed by the Turks in the districts of Zeitun, Mush, Diarbekir, Bitlis, and elsewhere in the region inhabited by the Armenians; and regarding a reported wholesale deportation of the inhabitants of some districts into Central Asia Minor and the desert parts of Mesopotamia; and whether, if these reports were well-founded, there was in the opinion of the Government any step that could be taken to save what remained of the Christian population of Armenia.

The EARL OF CROMER said there was, unfortunately, no doubt of the truth of the reports. The difficulty was to know what to do to give practical effect to the sympathy they felt.

The ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY said he had been in frequent communication with Christians in the territories on the Turkish and Persian frontiers, and letters received during the last two months had given accounts of massacres and outrages perpetrated by the Turks in territory now occupied by Russia. There was a feeling among the people that nobody in Europe cared about them, but he hoped that something at least would be done to show the sympathy of this country and the desire to ameliorate the condition of the inhabitants. The country was at the moment in the hands of the Russians, and it would be well that the feelings of horror we entertain should be made known.

The MARQUIS OF CREWE said he was grieved to say that the information in the possession of the Foreign Office, although not much more ample, was in accord with what the noble lord had given. Two months ago, in concert with the Governments of France and Russia, representations were made in regard to outrages perpetrated up to that date, May 24, to the effect that members of the Ottoman Government and all who participated in or instigated the crimes would be held personally responsible. Since then the crimes had increased in number, and, if possible, in atrocity. Wholesale massacre and deportation had been carried

out under the guise of necessity for evacuation of certain districts. It was also true that the crimes had not been challenged by German officials, whose presence and influence might have mitigated the sufferings of the people, but had been a curse to the people. These officials had shown a cynical disregard of the country and its inhabitants. For obvious reasons no immediate steps could be taken for repression of outrages. Those who were found to be responsible, either directly for the commission of crimes or for crimes due to their inspiration—and all the more the higher and the more responsible the positions they held—should receive punishment accordingly. (Hear, hear.)

The report, on which Lord Bryce's question was founded, was communicated by his Lordship to the *Manchester Guardian*, and appeared in the issue of that paper of August 6th, and is as follows:—

DEPORTATION AND MASSACRE.

Between 4,300 and 4,500 families, about 28,000 persons, are being removed by the order of the Turkish Government from the districts of Zeitoun and Marash to distant places where they are unknown and placed among distinctly non-Christian communities. Thousands have already been sent to the north-west into the provinces of Konia, Cesarea, Castumouni, &c., while others have been taken south-easterly as far as Deir-el-Zor, and even, reports say, to the vicinity of Bagdad.

The misery these people are suffering is terrible. Their property they are unable to sell, as they are given but a few hours to prepare for the journey, and the Government installs Mahometan families in their homes, who take possession of everything as soon as the Armenians have departed. The local pastors and their flocks, without distinction, whether Protestant, Gregorian Orthodox, or Catholic, rich and poor, young and old, sick and strong, are subject to the same order, and driven in herds to the four points of the compass to a fate which none can predict. Few are permitted the opportunity of riding, except occasionally on an ox or a donkey. The sick drop by the wayside, and women in critical condition give birth to children that, according to reports, many mothers strangle or drown because of lack of means to care for them. Fathers are exiled in one direction, mothers in another, and young girls and small children in still another. According to reports from reliable sources the accompanying gendarmes are told they may do as they wish with the women and girls.

In Marash alone there are six Gregorian Orthodox Armenian churches, one Armenian Congregational, one Armenian Catholic, and one Latin Catholic church; about 12 Armenian schools, one American, one German school, one Armenian girls' orphanage, one German orphanage, and a German hospital, practically all of which will be left without congregations or attendance.

At the beginning of May about 300 persons, heads of prominent families, had been imprisoned in Marash, of which some 50 were from Zeitoun and about 50 from Osmanie. From Zeitoun about 350 families, or about 2,000 persons, were sent to Marash, and from there to Aintab, and they were expected to arrive in Aleppo early in May, while 250 or more families were expected to follow. Seventy-one families were sent to Konia about April 25. A traveller coming from Constantinople said that he met about 4,500 of these unfortunates on the way that were bound for Konia, and his description of their condition was appalling. The Armenians themselves say that they would by far have preferred a massacre.

And in the same issue of the paper will be found the following editorial:—

THE SUFFERINGS OF ARMENIA.

If there are still people who do not realise the full enormity of the Turkish outrages in Armenia they would do well to read the details which are coming through now almost every day. They leave not the slightest room for doubt that a deliberately prepared and atrociously conceived plan for the virtual extermination of the Armenian race is in process of execution. By the military law of 1909 the Government was empowered to enrol all Armenians between the ages of eighteen and fifty in the army, and the authorities were not slow to avail themselves of an opportunity of getting into their hands, disarming, and where possible killing off the greater part of the Armenian male population. In the defenceless villages massacres were at once begun. It is worth while noticing that these massacres are taking place not only in North-eastern Armenia, where they might be explained, though not justified, by the help which the Armenians are extending to the Russian invading armies, but also further inland and in Cilicia. In wanton and indiscriminate slaughter of men, women, and children these massacres surpass even the massacres under Abdul Hamid. But the Young Turks have not been content with that. They have devised an even more insidious form of persecution than their predecessor. Under pretext of deportation, they are transferring whole communities from their homes into districts where there is a predominant Mussulman population, introducing in their place Arabs from Mesopotamia, or Mohadjvis, emigrants from the Balkans. Thus, for instance, the Armenians on the Mediterranean littoral have been transplanted to the desert regions of Deir-el-zor, where their disappearance is only a matter of time—perhaps hardly even that. With regard to cruelty, this latest form of persecution is, in its protracted agony, far worse even than massacre. Obviously, when peace negotiations are entered upon and the question of Armenia is broached, the Turks no doubt count on being able to point out that, racially and geographically, Armenia no longer exists. It is to be hoped that their barbarous and primitive expedients will avail them nothing, and that a nation which has suffered six centuries of martyrdom,

and in this struggle, in which it has sided with the cause of freedom and civilisation, is suffering the worst martyrdom of all, will be accorded the rights which it claims and surely deserves.

In the *Times* of July 30th we were pleased to see a significant warning uttered to Moslems and Christians of the East, against the lure of German blandishments, by that veteran Eastern Administrator, Earl Cromer. The following is his letter:—

GERMANY AND THE EAST.

LORD CROMER'S WARNING.

To the Editor of the Times.

SIR,—It is to be feared that the deeply significant and profoundly true words which Lord Crewe used in reply to a question asked by Lord Bryce yesterday in the House of Lords on the most recent Armenian atrocities will not reach the ears of any resident in the Ottoman dominions. It is, however, just possible that their repetition in a letter to the *Times* may arrest the attention of some who are interested in Eastern affairs and who are fortunate enough to be living for the time being in countries which admit of the circulation of news and of opinions. Lord Crewe, after confirming the truth of the reports that “wholesale massacre and deportation” had been carried out in Armenia, went on to say, “It was also true that the crimes had not been challenged by German officials, whose presence and influence might have mitigated the sufferings of the people, but had been a curse to the people. These officials had shown a cynical disregard of the country and its inhabitants.”

As one who has passed the best years of his life in the East and takes the deepest interest in the moral and material welfare of Easterns, I should like to state as strongly as possible that the inhabitants of the Ottoman dominions, be they Moslem or Christian, have nothing whatever to hope from the establishment of German predominance in their midst. Indeed, could they but peer into the future which awaits them in the event of Germany emerging victorious from the present struggle, they would use their utmost endeavours to resist the assertion of German influence. The results which would accrue from a complete German victory may be foretold with the utmost confidence. Not only would every semblance of genuine Turkish independence disappear, but, in addition to this, the worst defects of Turkish administration, from which Moslems and Christians alike suffer, far from being mitigated, would be enhanced by the addition of a powerful European element which, on its moral side, would represent the least admirable features of Western civilisation. Easterns, of whatsoever creed or nationality, would do well to ponder over these things.

I am, Sir, &c.,

CROMER.

36, Wimpole Street, W., July 29.

In our previous issues we have given a sufficiently clear account of the capture of Van by the Armenians, taken chiefly from the Armenian papers of Tiflis and elsewhere. It was a satisfaction to see the corroboration of all details, and a fuller and more graphic account, in the columns of the *Manchester Guardian* of August 2nd, which that paper obtained from an “Eye-Witness.” Our readers will be interested to have this historic document in full:—

A BRILLIANT ARMENIAN EXPLOIT.

THE CAPTURE OF VAN.

FOUR WEEKS' RESISTANCE TO THE TURKS.

By an Eye-Witness.

VAN, June 7.

The day after Germany's declaration of war on Russia martial law was proclaimed in Van, and the Turkish Government set about the work of mobilisation. The Armenians responded to the call in a better mood than the Moslems, many of whom either ran away or did not present themselves for service. But from the very beginning the authorities adopted a harsh attitude towards the Armenians in the vilayet. Under the pretence of requisitioning, they ruthlessly plundered and looted the Armenians. Business was brought to an absolute standstill; and the import and sale of wheat in the city was forbidden on the plea that it was needed to provision the armies—though ways and means were always found if the applicant was a Moslem. As for the Armenian soldiers in the Turkish army, they were neglected, half-starved, set to do all the menial work, and, worst of all, disarmed and left over to the mercies of their Moslem comrades, who managed to kill a few hundreds altogether in various parts. It became evident that the Government was bent on the systematic destruction of the Armenian population. A feeling of despondency seized hold of all.

When Turkey went into the war the distress of the people reached an even higher pitch, especially when the Government armed all the males of the Moslem population between the ages of 15 and 60 and gave up Christian villages to fire and sword at the slightest pretext. Pelon, the largest village of the Kavash district, was reduced to a heap of ruins. Twelve villages in the Gargar district, on the Persian frontier, Bashkala, and Sarai, with the Nestorian and Armenian villages around, were ruthlessly wiped out after the Russian retreat, and of their population only a few old crippled women were left as survivors. News of this sort was constantly being brought to the town by refugees from far places like Boghag-kessen, Hazaren, Nordoz, &c. This pouring in of the refugees aggravated the question of living in the city of Van.

On the other hand, the three leaders of the former Revolutionary party called Tashnagists, who since the proclamation of the Constitution had been changed into a political party and had come to an understanding with the Young Turks, exhorted the people to endure in silence. Better, they said, that some villages be burned and destroyed unavenged than give the slightest pretext to the Moslems for a general massacre. One of the first villages to defend itself was Bairak, whose inhabitants succeeded in keeping the soldiers and Kurdish mob from entering the village. The Turkish Government sent a peace commission composed of Armenians and Turks to quiet the matters there, which was done. At the same time news was sent to the Governor-General, Jevdet Bey, a brother-in-law of Enver Pasha, then on the border, to come to Van. Jevdet Bey, on his arrival, demanded 4,000 soldiers from the Armenians. The Armenians were so anxious to keep the peace that they promised to accede to this demand under an altered form approved by the Government. But at this juncture trouble broke out between Armenians and Turks in the Shadakh region. Some say this was started at the instigation of Jevdet Bey. This Governor had requested Ishkan, one of the three Tashnagist leaders, to go there as peace commissioner, accompanied by three other notable Armenians. On their way there, however, on Friday, 16th of April, all four were treacherously murdered.

Armenians felt now they could not trust the Governor, and instead of giving him the 4,000 men, they told him they would give 400 and pay the exemption tax for the rest, in instalments. In the meanwhile they asked the American missionaries Dr. Usher and Mr. Yarrow and the Italian agent Signor Spardoni to try to mollify the Governor. The attitude of the Governor was wavering. At times he would be moderate and swear that peace would be kept. At other times he was harsh and irreconcilable, declaring he intended to put down "rebellion" at all costs. First he would punish Shadakh, then he would attend to Van; if the rebels fired one shot it would be a signal for him to attack, and neither Turks nor Armenians would be left in the vilayet.

THE SIEGE BEGINS.

Things continued in this suspense till April 20, when some Turkish soldiers tried to seize some village women on their way to the city. The women fled. Two Armenians came up and asked the Turks what they were doing. The Turkish soldiers fired on the Armenians and killed them. This served as a signal. The booming of cannons and rattle of rifles began from every side, and it was realised that the Armenian quarter was besieged. In the evening houses in the Armenian quarter could be seen burning in every direction. The Governor-General had sworn that not a

single house would be left in Van, except the one where his father had lived as Governor-General. Under the command of Armenag Egarian, of the Ramgavar party, the Armenians, nearly 30,000 in number now, began to man and barricade houses and open trenches. Eighty such barricaded positions, called in Armenian "teerks," were held by Armenians, and the enclosed area of about two square miles was gradually connected in between by deep trenches. To assure regularity, a Provisional Government was set up, and a military court was appointed to deal with military affairs. Everyone capable of doing something, male or female, young or old, was set to work. Women and girls were busy cooking, mending, sewing, making bedding for homeless refugees and soldiers, and nursing wounded people and motherless children. About 1,300 young men were under arms day and night trying to hold the enemy at bay. Lads were employed as messengers between the "teerks." The rest of the men were used as workmen to dig trenches and build new walls and barricades, as the old ones crumbled before the cannon-fire. About 16,000 cannon-shots were fired at the handful of inhabitants in the old city under the Castle Rock.

After some days refugees began to pour in from near and far. The Government had not succeeded in besieging the eastern side of the Armenian quarter, and it was still possible to enter the city. On May 16 no less than 12,000 bread-tickets were issued to refugees. At the same time, owing to privation and exposure, an epidemic of measles broke out among the children, dysentery and pneumonia among the adults, and many who had escaped the sword of the Moslem fell victims to disease.

As the supply of ammunition was very meagre and the intention of Armenians was to prolong their defence till help might come from Armenian volunteers, they were very sparing in its use. They used pistols when they could, and employed all kinds of devices to draw the fire of the enemy and waste his ammunition. At the same time they began to devise means of making bullets, cartridges, and manufacturing smokeless gun-powder and bombs, and succeeded in turning out daily 4,000 cartridges, and even in making three mortars for throwing bombs and bursting shells. In the meantime the Provisional Government issued strict orders for keeping the neutrality of foreign institutions and premises, forbidding armed men to pass through these parts or carry the wounded Armenian soldiers to the American Mission Hospital. A manifesto was also sent to the Turks to the effect that the quarrel was with one man, Jevdet Bey, not with their Turkish neighbours. Governors come and go, but the two races must continue to live together. Gradually, however, the Armenians succeeded in ousting the Turks from their positions. On May 17, after nearly four weeks' resistance, it became obvious that the enemy was putting forward his last efforts.

THE TURKS WITHDRAW.

At sunset a daring dash put to flight the remaining Turkish soldiers in the two northern barracks on Toprek-kalli Hill and below. These two barracks were at once burnt. About midnight another attack put the southern great barracks in Armenian hands, and these, too, were set on fire. Towards morning the news spread that the Turks and soldiers had left the city. It was understood that the Government, on hearing of the approach of the Russian army and the Armenian volunteers, had ordered a systematic retreat some days before, and the last regiment, with the Governor, had evacuated the town on the night of May 18. Immediately hungry and starved people rushed towards Turkish quarters to satisfy their feelings of justice by plundering and burning. Shortly after news came that the Russian army, with Armenian volunteers, was in sight. The joy of the people was boundless; tears of gladness and for what they had suffered during the past month rolled down their cheeks as they made them welcome. The keys of the captured city and of the castle were immediately taken and laid at the feet of the Russian General, who gave orders to the Armenians to organise a Provisional Government for the affairs of the town.

To the above, the paper of the same date adds the following Editorial:—

THE FATE OF ARMENIA.

In another column we publish an account from a correspondent of what happened in Van, the ancient capital of Armenia and the centre of the thickest Armenian population, during the eventful period which followed on Turkey's declaration of war. From this account it is plain that the Armenians were driven to self-defence only when it was no longer possible to doubt that Jevdet Bey, the brother-in-law of Enver Pasha, contemplated the extermination of the Armenian population and had actually begun his task in the outlying provinces. This is not the first occasion on which the Armenians have put up a successful resistance against the regular and organised forces of the Turks: the town of Zeitun, it will be remembered, held out for three months during the massacres in 1895, and finally succeeded in obtaining honourable terms on the mediation of the Powers. In Van, however, the Armenians have shown not only valour of the highest degree, but also qualities with which they have not been credited so often—forethought, organisation, and good administration; and it is significant that the Russians, who came up after the Turks had been driven away, entrusted the control of the town to the Armenian Provisional Government. The value of the stand of the Armenians to the Allied cause consists, of course, in the diversion of troops to the sandjak of Moush from the two fronts Erzeroum and Thrace—a diversion which the Turks

admitted in a recent *communiqué* intended to excuse their suppressive measures. In the yet unconquered provinces massacres are taking place on a vast scale. Women and children are being carried off, and though, as was stated in the House of Lords the other day, the British Government has warned those who are responsible, the warning is not likely to be of any immediate effect. It is only too probable that the Armenians will have to pay their price in their struggle for freedom and that the victims of the Turks now will exceed those of the great massacres in 1896, when more than 100,000 perished. Terrible as such a loss must be for a nation as small as the Armenian, it need not be crushing, and it is worth while pointing out that the Greeks, in the course of their national rising, lost nearly two-thirds of their population. If the sacrifices of the Armenians in this war are the last of their kind, and are rewarded by the little place under the sun which they claim, the price will not have been too great.

Announcements.

THE ARMENIAN UNITED ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.

There will be an "At Home" of the Association on Sunday, October 10th, from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m., at the Elysée Hall, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W.

A lecture will be delivered by Mr. W. Llew. Williams, late Editor of "The Sunday Strand," on

Serbia's Fight for Freedom: an Example to Armenia.

The lecture will begin at 3.45, and members and their friends are earnestly requested to be in their seats punctually, so as to avoid distracting the attention of the lecturer when he has once begun.

Literary Section.

A Historical Sketch of Russia's Relations with Armenia.

I.

Now that Russia is again at war with Turkey and her armies are marching through Armenia; now that the Czar himself has visited his Armenian provinces in Transcaucasia to inspect his armies, and has given to his Armenian subjects, through the intermediary of the Viceroy, Count Vorontzoff Dashkoff, a distinct hope for a brighter future for Armenia that is still suffering under the Turkish yoke, it would be of some interest to relate briefly the history of the political intercourse that has subsisted between Russia and the Armenians since these two nations came in contact with each other.

It was in the reign of Peter the Great that Armenians began to have political relations of any importance with Russia. An Armenian of princely lineage, Israel Ori by name, came to France and entered the French army. He afterwards went and settled in Germany, where he made the acquaintance of the Elector of the Palatinate, Prince Johanns William, and succeeded in enlisting his sympathies towards the deliverance of Armenia from the Persian yoke, the larger and most important portion of Armenia being then under Persian domination. The idea seemed to find favour with the Elector; but in order to obtain more accurate information regarding topography and other details, he advised Ori to proceed to Armenia and to study the conditions of the country and the best means for leading thither a European army. Ori undertook this journey in 1698 by way of Vienna and Constantinople. On his return in 1699, Ori presented a report to his illustrious protector, who accorded his approval to Ori's plans; but, considering the position and distance of Armenia, he did not think the realisation of the project possible without the consent and co-operation of the Emperor of Austria and of the Czar of Russia, through whose territories such an expedition would have to pass. The Elector, therefore, sent Ori to these potentates, armed with the necessary credentials. The Emperor Leopold could not give him much hope of assistance, as his hands were already tied with the War of the Spanish Succession, in which he was engaged against France. With recommendations from the Emperor, the Elector and the King of Poland, Ori then went to Russia in 1700 to seek the aid of Peter the Great. The great Czar received him well, and showed himself to be favourably impressed with his request; he could not, however, promise immediate assistance as he was fully occupied with the Swedish War in the north, but he held out hopes of his turning his attention to the south no sooner that war had been brought to an end. Ori waited impatiently in Russia during the continuance of that war, repeating his request periodically and always receiving the same answer. It was not until 1704 that the Czar entrusted to him, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary, a mission to the Court of Persia, the secret object of which was to examine the country. Ori set off with a large retinue and with great pomp. He carried his mission through, but, unfortunately, on his return journey, he contracted fever on the shores of the Caspian Sea, and died at Astrakan in the month of August, 1711. Thus came to an untimely end a project which was launched under promising auspices, and was being undertaken under royal and powerful support.

But though Ori was dead, Peter the Great still lived; and, his attention being once turned towards the south-east, he never abandoned the idea of acquiring the shores of the Caspian and of opening up a road to India. It was on the conclusion of the war with Sweden that he marched towards the Caspian in 1722, but after taking Derbend and a few other towns, he suddenly wended his way back, ascribing his return to the severity of the climate and the difficulty of obtaining provisions for his forces. The real reason probably was his knowledge that Turkey was also beginning to move against him, and that it was

impolitic to wage war against two Mohammedan Powers at the same time. He preferred, therefore, to attain his object by diplomatic negotiations. This attitude of his did not, however, prevent him from keeping in touch with the Armenians and inspiring them with hope that at some future occasion he would come to their assistance. And it was in this spirit that he sent an emissary with letters in 1723 to the Armenian *meliks*. But their hopes were to be dashed to the ground, as they have been so very often since. Peter the Great was bent on victory, be it in the military or the diplomatic field, and he saw his opportunity and seized it. He concluded separate Treaties both with Persia and Turkey in 1724, whereby he acquired the western shores of the Caspian without the necessity of going to war, and this led to the abandonment of his project of an Armenian campaign. Here was a great disappointment to the Armenians, whose hopes had been centred in him as their great deliverer; it was with enthusiasm that they had received the news of his march in 1722, and they were making great preparations to welcome him and to assist him in his campaign. Their illusion was complete!

II.

We next come to Catherine II (1762-1796), the wife and successor of Peter's grandson. Of German origin, Catherine has justly been recognised as a great empress, who took Peter the Great for her model and tried to imitate and to follow him, and to bring to fruition some of the large enterprises which he had left unaccomplished. In some cases she did her best even to surpass Peter; this emulation to out-do the great deeds of her famous predecessor being encouraged by the flatteries of the favourites in her Court by whom she was surrounded. Though she had her wars in Europe, her attention was directed toward the East—to those Caspian shores again, to Transcaucasia, to Persia and to Asiatic Turkey.

Already in 1768 Simeon, the Catholicos at Etchmiadzin, had petitioned her to take the Armenians under her powerful protection. Her reply to this appeal was most encouraging, and brought with it her acquiescence. At that time Catherine was at war with Turkey, with the approval of Prussia and the connivance of England, and was meditating the partition of Turkey. The latter Power was, however, advised and induced by her ally, France, to come to terms with Russia, and thus was brought about the Treaty of Kainardji, which was signed on July 10th, 1774. This Treaty had a special importance from the fact that by its terms Russia acquired the right to intervene at all times on behalf of the native Christian subjects of the Porte. This characteristic was the foundation of Russia's unique relation to the Christians in Turkey; and in all the Capitulations that the Powers of Europe have been anxious to wrest from the Sultan, there is not one to compare with it. Whereas the other Powers have zealously worked to obtain privileges from Turkey for their own States and their own subjects, they have carefully avoided any mention of the native Christians. Russia alone has prided herself in becoming the protector

of the Christians of Turkey as the legitimate heir of the Byzantine Empire. And be it admitted to her lasting honour that she has exercised that right nobly. Serbia, Roumania, Montenegro, Greece and Bulgaria, all owe their deliverance to the active intervention of Russia—a fact which cannot be disputed. And but for the Turcophile objections and interferences of England, both Macedonia and Armenia would similarly have been delivered in 1878 from Turkish misrule and from the copious shedding of innocent blood which has not ceased yet.

Catherine, however, was planning a more stupendous enterprise, and she was not satisfied with what seemed to her as the meagre results of the Treaty of Kainardji. After conquering the Crimea in 1784, she resolved that Asiatic Turkey must also be brought under her sway, and the Eastern Empire of the Greeks re-established under a royal Russian prince. In 1779 there was born to her a grandson, whom she named Constantine, in memory of the last Byzantine Emperor, who fell under the walls of Constantinople when Sultan Mohammed stormed it in 1453. At St. Petersburg she opened a military school for the sons of Greek refugees from the Crimea; and promising Greek boys from this school were selected as companions for young Constantine, in order that the prince might learn the Greek language and imbibe the manners and customs of Greeks. Moreover, she designated him publicly for the throne of Constantinople.

Such open provocations were more than the Porte could tolerate, and, accordingly, on August 1st, 1787, Turkey declared war against Russia, coupling with it the high-handed action of throwing the Russian Ambassador as a prisoner into the Yédi-Koulé tower. On this occasion Austria was on the side of Russia; but on the death of the Emperor Joseph of Austria in January, 1790, England, Prussia and Austria prevailed on Catherine to make peace, as England was making preparations for active interference. The result of all this was the Treaty of Yassi, concluded in 1792 in favour of Russia.

III.

Besides her dream of a resuscitated Greek Empire, Catherine's brain was evolving other plans which were of not less importance. She was contemplating the creation of other independent States which were to look to Russia as their protector, among them being Moldavia, Wallachia, Bessarabia, and Armenia. Under the influence of a very resourceful favourite of hers, her plans and schemes grew apace. This man was Prince Potemkin, who was all-powerful at Court, bore himself as the Viceroy of Southern Russia, had conquered the Crimea, and had opened up the Black Sea for his country. Amidst the many wars and pressing preoccupations of the period, he found time to formulate the idea of creating an independent Armenia, and was able to persuade Catherine to endorse his scheme. It has even been surmised that he was endeavouring to re-establish the Armenian Kingdom, and that the Crown of Armenia was coveted by himself.

It would be interesting here to relate how it was that he gained his knowledge of Armenia and became interested in her fate. This was due to two Armenian patriots, one belonging to the laity, the

other to the clergy. Both happened to be in Russia at the same time, and both had fairly free access to the Court of the Empress, and thus acquired the intimate friendship of Prince Potemkin. The layman was Hovhannes Lazarian, one of the founders of the illustrious family of the Lazarians. He had emigrated from Persia into Russia with his father and brothers, and by dint of their business abilities, they had amassed immense wealth. Hovhannes, moreover, made such excellent progress with his literary studies that he entered upon an official career, an avenue which brought him a host of friends and also gave him free access to Court; and from such a position as this he was enabled to extend hospitality to the Empress and the Imperial Princes. As an example of his generosity it might be mentioned that when he learnt on one occasion that the Emperor Paul was anxious to be the possessor of one of his princely estates, Lazarian at once placed it at the disposal of his sovereign. To Lazarian is due the foundation of the Armenian churches and schools throughout Russia, and also the Lazarian Academy of Moscow, which he richly endowed. And this was one of the patriots who was instrumental in creating an interest in Prince Potemkin and the Empress Catherine towards the cause of Armenia.

The other great Armenian who worked in unison with Lazarian was Prince Joseph Arghoutian, the well-known and venerated Archbishop of the Armenians in Russia. He was a man of princely character and bearing; and he and Lazarian were intimate friends, both imbued with the same ideas, and with an ardent zeal for delivering their country from the yoke of the Persians, who were already demoralised and were showing signs of gradual decay. It was Lazarian who introduced the Archbishop to his friends, to Potemkin, and to the Court. The prelate, with his princely manners and his native intelligence, as well as with his personal and intimate knowledge of conditions in the East, and in Persia in particular, made a favourable impression on all with whom he came in contact. He and Lazarian inflamed the imagination of Potemkin and of Catherine; and after many conversations and discussions, a plan was adopted, but it was unfortunately not put into effect at once.

In 1780 General Souvaroff was sent to the Caspian regions to study the conditions on the spot. Before his departure he had several lengthy interviews with both the above Armenians, and he gave them distinct hopes that they might rely on seeing before long the regeneration of Armenia. He remained, however, for two years in the country to which he had been deputed, and nothing came of it. Two years later, in 1782, Prince Potemkin sent one of his own relations, General Potemkin, on a similar mission. The latter showed more activity than General Souvaroff had done, and began at once to enter into regular negotiations with the Armenian semi-independent chiefs (*meliks*), and with the two Catholicis, of Etchmiadzin and of Katzassar. The working plan which he devised was to establish the nucleus of an Armenian State by the inclusion of Karabagh and Karadagh, to which other Armenian provinces would gradually attach themselves, and so would ultimately be formed a strong Christian State. Prince Potemkin,

in reporting the scheme to the Empress Catherine, thus puts it: By this means there will be regenerated in Asia a Christian State in accordance with your Imperial Majesty's promises communicated by me to the Armenian *Meliks*.

The scheme had ripened towards realisation to such an extent that the Prince actually sent to the General the funds necessary for the enterprise. All preparations were actively pushed forward, and we even find the General asking explanations of the Prince regarding some pending questions, such, for instance, as to the form of government that was to be given to the new State, and whether Erivan was to form a part of it. Circumstances, however, again intervened to dash the hopes of the Armenians and to delay the campaign, until, in 1787, when war was declared in Europe, the contingent with General Potemkin was recalled. Though the Armenian scheme remained in abeyance, it was not looked upon as definitely abandoned. During this war the Armenian Archbishop Arghoutian was a frequent guest of his friend Prince Potemkin, and they never ceased earnestly to discuss the Armenian project. Among the papers left by the Archbishop there was found a kind of a Treaty, between the Russians and the Armenians, to date from 1790. Unfortunately, however, Prince Potemkin fell a victim to an illness in 1791, and carried with him to his grave his ill-starred Armenian project.

IV.

Potemkin was succeeded at Court by another great dreamer, Plato Zouboff. He too had his visions about the East, and he inaugurated an expedition under his own brother, Valerian Zouboff—it was of the nature of a punitive expedition for avenging the destruction of Tiflis by Mohamad Shah in 1795. Zouboff asked Archbishop Arghoutian to accompany his brother, which he readily consented to do, though at the time (1796) the prelate was getting old and failing in bodily strength. His presence, however, with the expedition greatly assisted the Russians, for it was through his wide knowledge and experience of the country that provisions were secured without difficulty for the troops, and he inspired confidence among the Armenians, while even the Persians were not unmindful of his presence and personality. The expedition was doing well, and great hopes were entertained by the Armenians of some good accruing to their cause, when news was suddenly received of the death in November of the same year, 1796, of the Empress Catherine.

Her son and successor, Paul, was a weakly-disposed prince, and opposed to the aggressive policy of his mother. One of his first acts was to recall Zouboff and his Russian contingent, and the General quitted Transcaucasia with tears in his eyes, while the Armenians added one more to their tale of bitter disappointments. The Archbishop and Lazarian, however, still continued to enjoy favours at Court at the hands of their new monarch. Indeed, the Czar manifested so great an interest in Arghoutian that he powerfully supported his

candidature for the vacant See of Etchmiadzin, and conferred on him the title of Prince. Stringent instructions were sent to Tamara, then the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, to obtain the consent of the Armenians of that place and the *firman* of the Sultan, in favour of the Czar's favourite candidate Arghoutian. Though the Armenians of Constantinople had already chosen the Patriarch Daniel for the vacant See at Etchmiadzin, they were constrained to revise the election and to cast their votes for Arghoutian, while the Sultan, too, issued his *firman* for the Czar's nominee. The election was then confirmed by Paul through a special *ukase*. This was the first occasion on which a Czar of Russia interested himself in the election of an Armenian Catholicos, and confirmed such election by his own special *ukase*. Arghoutian was sent with great pomp to enter on his high dignity, was accorded elaborate official receptions at all the places he passed through, and on Feb. 10th, 1801, he made his triumphal entry into Tiflis. But on March 9th, before reaching Etchmiadzin, he died suddenly from an unfortunate and severe attack of chill which he contracted. Three days later, on March 12th, the Czar Paul also died at St. Petersburg.

G. THOUMAIAN.

(To be continued.)

Reviews and Notices.

"WAR AND DIPLOMACY IN THE BALKANS," by H. Charles Woods.
(London: *The Field & Queen, Ltd.*). 6d. net.

This little handbook, recently published and coming from the pen of one who has intimate knowledge of his subject, should be in the hands of everyone who takes any interest in the Near Eastern Question and its bearing on the Great War. The Balkan Wars of 1912 and 1913 forced on our attention the importance of these young States, and made us ponder over the influence they could exert over Near Eastern politics so long as they were in a position to present a united front. It was with unutterable grief that our hopes towards a progressive and civilising future in this corner of Europe were shattered by the mutual jealousies and strifes among the States themselves. Had the settlement with Turkey after the war of 1912 led up to a close alliance between the Balkan States, we should have been spared the attack on Serbia last year, and there would have been no European War. However much we may ascribe this awful result to German and Austrian machinations, our hopes are now centred on the future and on the best means of undoing the mischief wrought by the Treaty of Bucharest in 1913. All fair-minded nations are agreed that Bulgaria, which did at least her fair share in the struggle against the Turks in 1912, was shabbily treated both after the first war and when the Bucharest Treaty restored again what was but a semblance of peace

It is in the interest of the Balkan States no less of the Allied Powers that the Balkan Alliance should be brought into being again, and this is imperative as much for the safety of these States as for the attainment of permanent peace. We know that the representatives of the Allies are doing their best, and we can only hope that the Balkan statesmen will not be found wanting at this critical moment of their history. Bulgaria must not be allowed to sulk in her tent; Roumania, Greece and Serbia, in the plenitude of the gain that is bound to accrue to them from the break-up of Turkey and the defeat of the Central Empires, should decide at once that the just rights of Bulgaria in her Macedonian longings are fully satisfied. To enable us to see clearly through all this maze of political controversy and self-interest, Mr. Woods has come to our rescue with his ably prepared handbook, containing much matter of moment regarding the power, capabilities and the aspirations of the States concerned—information which would be difficult to obtain elsewhere in so succinct a form. We commend the little book to all who are interested in the Near East, and to those who are following the progress of the war in its avowed application to the rights of nationalities.

"THE MEETING OF THE KINGS," by Khramean Hairik.

This poem in the original Armenian, together with a versical translation in English, was published in the May issue of *Ararat*, and it was intended, as our advertisement in that issue showed, to republish it in pamphlet form, with additional matter both in English and in Armenian, and to devote all profits from its sale to the "Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund." This intention was subsequently abandoned. The owner of the Armenian poem has, however, brought out the pamphlet in Armenian and English on his own account, the poem in English being "a word-for-word translation" by Laurence Binyon. The Publishers being Messrs. William Clowes and Sons, Ltd., it goes without saying that the get-up of the pamphlet is in every way satisfactory. It contains two portraits, one of Khramean and the other of H. F. B. Lynch, from whose work on Armenia the quotations about Khramean are taken. The pamphlet is being privately sold by Mr. P. Tonapetean, 53, Addison Gardens, W., at one shilling a copy net.

"L'ANGLAIS POUR NOS SOLDATS," etc., and "L'ALLEMAND POUR NOS SOLDATS." By Melik S. David Bey. (Paris: *Albert Mericant*.) 50 centimes each.

"EASY TURKISH FOR OUR MEN ABROAD," etc, by A. Raffi. (London: *Kegan Paul*.) 6d. net.

These are necessary products of the war, and are intended to make matters easy for those who have to interpret or to carry on conversations where various nationalities are congregated together. The above three little books have been prepared by Armenians and have been sent to us to bring to the notice of the public, which we gladly do, and we have no doubt they will be appreciated by those who need them.

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BY F. R. SCATCHERD.

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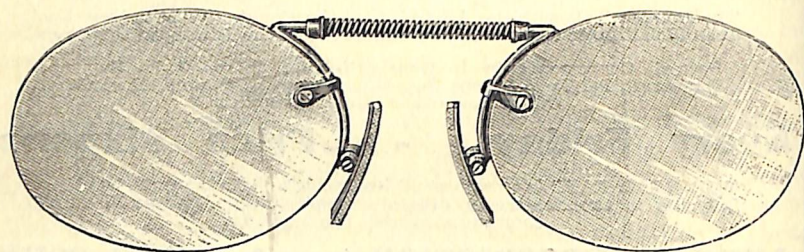
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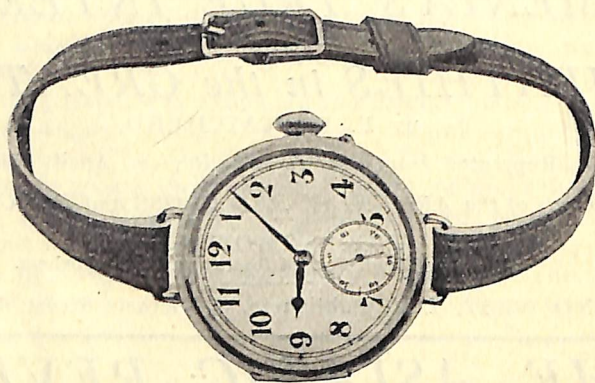
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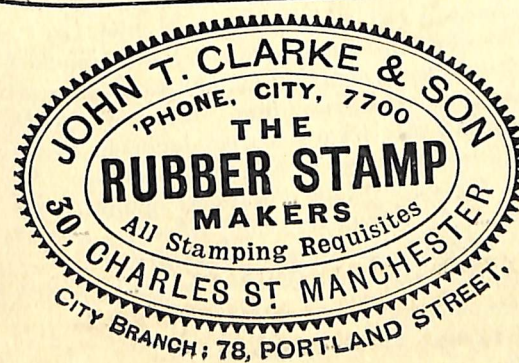
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